

Commenting on the 'A`hihi-Ki`na`u Natural Area Reserve Draft Management Plan

Robert Wintner

As a Maui tourism professional and business owner, a property-owner/resident living in immediate proximity to the subject area and a frequent recreational snorkeler, I am most troubled by the draft management plan.

This draft plan is thick with erudition and identifies key errors of the past leading to current erosion, run-off, invasive species and other management needs. Yet this draft plan also seeks to establish authority on the basis of "stake holding" and then outlines "management" based on commercial revenue. Then the plan frames that revenue collection as protective. The plan seeks to generate money but does not follow that money.

To whit: DLNR finally responded to wayward tourists trashing Fishbowl and Aquarium snorkel sites by closing those sites to tourist traffic. Many of those tourists got lost and/or injured in their wanderings on the lava. This was a classic illustration of DLNR functioning at its full potential for protecting wilderness, wilderness reefs and wilderness shoreline.

This plan now wants full surrender to the odious pressures of a tour guidebook that insists that tourists "must see" these remote sites. This plan further defers to the surreptitious agenda of The Nature Conservancy in its ongoing efforts to generate money by grants or donations—or in this case by commercial fee collection—under the guise of Maui conservation.

Snorkel Bob's is the biggest snorkel gear outfitter in Hawaii, and I assure you that tourists seeking dynamic reef experience on Maui do not need access to Fishbowl or Aquarium. Snorkel Bob's staffers have never sent people to these spots, and Snorkel Bob's is still the biggest with the happiest customers. In fact, when NARS asked that we stop recommending Ahihi Bay (Kanahena Cove) as a snorkel site, we complied immediately—that same day—redirecting tourists to the beach in front of the hotel formerly known as Prince.

Compliance from all reef-based tourism vendors may well be a better plan than railroading guided tours to wilderness sites. If those sites are re-opened, they will be re-trashed.

I will not respond in detail to the draft plan, though a few sticklers do stand out, like the idea that private tour leaders would absolve the State of insurance costs AND liability. Is this a legal opinion? An injured tourist with legal counsel will sue all parties. An uninsured State will pay.

Most disturbing here is the assumption by DLNR that The Nature Conservancy wants to broaden its agenda on Maui, pursuant to its other good work here, like founding the Maui Nui Marine Resource Council. The Nature Conservancy did not found that council but did obtain grant funding from NOAA in secret under the guise of "helping" the Maui Nui Marine Resource Council. To this day, MNMRC membership is uninformed of this secret grant funding and continuing subterfuge, by which a TNC employee is paid with grant money to sit on the council and steer a course favorable to TNC. All other council members are volunteers, receiving lectures and guidance on what is best for Maui and TNC. TNC is the biggest recipient of NOAA funding in Hawaii, yet it has demonstrated a dire penchant for earned media and political control rather than substantive good work. This troubling track record is exacerbated by troubling language in the draft plan:

"One way the tourism sector can contribute to help cover the costs of management is through supporting various fees. For example... entrance, recreation, user, concession, merchandise sales, taxes license and permits, and private donations... We need only to tap into this ready source of funding and use it to help support the costs of managing the Reserve."

Three levels of management plan are deftly pitched, with "High" management framed as optimal. Budgetary numbers are bandied in the hundreds of thousands of dollars, but the plan makes no specific mention of who gets what.

A grant request came to the Snorkel Bob Foundation some years ago, by a group wanting to aid an endangered species with management and monitoring. We were receptive to the idea, but the budget went to similar rhetorical figures with an explanation that the field staff would go through "a thousand dollars worth of flashlight batteries alone." That project died, because it could not demonstrate dollars applied specifically to solutions. Rather most dollars would have gone to support overhead of the administering NGO.

Again, though erudite and well presented, this plan feels like a veiled effort to pave paradise and put up a parking lot to protect the wilderness, with fees generated to support an Oahu-centric NGO that has demonstrated Trojan-horse stratagem here on Maui in 2009 and 2010. While a Maui staff of managers and monitors might achieve the plan's stated objectives, that staff and those objectives should not support overhead or

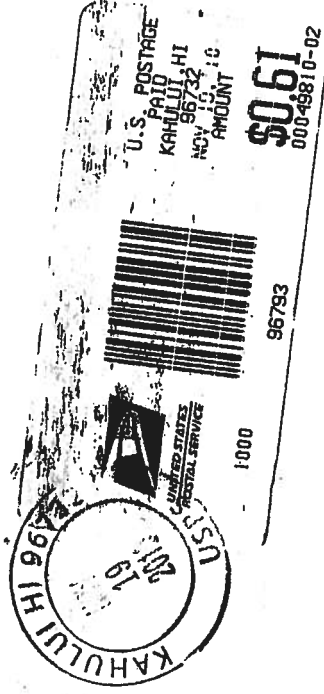
payroll or political agenda of a huge NGO, with some percentage of funding applied to the protection at hand.

Though the protective measures enumerated in the draft plan seem sound, the management infrastructure has all the feeling of a non-profit squeezing urgently for a juicy bottom line.

If the Ahihi Kinau Natural Area Reserve cannot be protected without paid parking, guided tours, concessions and merchandise sales, then it should remain as is, until a viable plan emerges to keep it as wilderness.

Finally, I would like to be informed of hearings on this in the future, since this process went under the radar for many. Thank you for extending your time for comments.

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
LOKELANI INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL
1401 Loke Drive
Kilauea, Hawaii 96753



Bill Evanson
DLNR/DOFAW
54 S. High St. Rm 101
Wailuku HI 96793

96753+2138

COMMENT FORM

'ĀHIHI-KĪNA'U NAR/KEONE'Ō'IO ADVISORY GROUP MEETING
October 20, 2010, Lokelani Intermediate School, Cafeteria

Resident Name:

Address:

Joe. Pooki

Phone:

Email Address

Please write any comments you wish to share on the proposed action below. Comments received will help to ensure that your interests and concerns are communicated to decision makers..

Keep the closed areas

KAPU

RECEIVED
DEPT. OF LAND
& NATURAL RESOURCES
29th NOV 12 PM 1:45
FOREMAN

Please submit your comments by the end of the meeting, or, if you wish you may mail your comments attention to:

Bill Evanson
DLNR/DOFAW
54 S. High St., Rm. 101
Wailuku, HI 96793

Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact Bill at (808) 264-9325, or by email at william.d.evansons@hawaii.gov.

COMMENT FORM

‘ĀHIHI-KĪNA‘U NAR/KEONE‘Ō‘IO PUBLIC INFORMATIONAL MEETING
November 3, 2010, Lokelani Intermediate School, Cafeteria

Resident Name: STACY AMORATIS
Address:

Email Address:

Please write any comments you wish to share on the draft management plan below.
Comments received will help to ensure that your interests and concerns are communicated to decision makers.

Please continue to keep all of the
places that are off-limits, that way.
We can continue to preserve the
Hawaiian culture and the Reserve
(with its historic background) if we
follow thru with these rules.

Please submit your comments by the end of the meeting, or, if you wish you may mail your comments attention to:

Bill Evanson
DLNR/DOFAW
54 S. High St., Rm. 101
Wailuku, HI 96793

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COMMENT FORM

'ĀHIHI-KĪNA'U NAR/KEONE'Ō'IO PUBLIC INFORMATIONAL MEETING
November 3, 2010, Lokelani Intermediate School, Cafeteria

Resident Name:
Address:

Briana Kuallani-Sensen Phone: _____

Email Address:

Please write any

Comments received will help to ensure that your interests and concerns are communicated to decision makers.

They should leave the closed areas
closed. Don't ruin the kupuna!

Please submit your comments by the end of the meeting, or, if you wish you may mail your comments attention to:

Bill Evanson
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Wailuku, HI 96793

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COMMENT FORM

'ĀHIHI-KĪNA'U NAR/KEONE'Ō'IO PUBLIC INFORMATIONAL MEETING
November 3, 2010, Lokelanī Intermediate School, Cafeteria

Resident Name:
Address:

Alfred Casimiro

Email Address:

Please write any comments you wish to share on the draft management plan below.
Comments received will help to ensure that your interests and concerns are communicated to decision makers.

I think they should preserve this area because the land holds unique animals, historical facts, and the old hawaiian religion. I also think they shouldn't let anyone go in the Reserve because they might damage the Reserve. The Reserve is very important because it's one of the old part of Hawaii that is Reserved for the future. To me the Reserve is important because it's so unique. I hope in the future no one can touch the Reserve because it holds such history.

Please submit your comments by the end of the meeting, or, if you wish you may mail your comments attention to:

Bill Evanson
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Wailuku, HI 96793

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COMMENT FORM

'ĀHIHI-KĪNA'U NAR/KEONE'Ō'IO PUBLIC INFORMATIONAL MEETING
November 3, 2010, Lokelani Intermediate School, Cafeteria

Resident Name: Aksho Casajuran
Address: _____

Email Address: _____

Please write any
Comments received will help to ensure that your interests and concerns are communicated to
decision makers.

I think that I should preserve this the reserve the land hold unique animals
historical here, trees, and many of old Hawaiian relation I also think
they should put this as a land preserve in my opinion I think this
Reserve should be donated and should be protected most of all
be held to keep part of the Hawaiian and settle or left the
land to the land. The Reserve is important to me because there
are many plants and animals that are being discovered here or
are endangered. If people destroy this Reserve it can also make
a difference for people who are in the future. It can also make
that place in time that might not know anything about the
natural things. In conclusion, it is important to protect the
Reserve. It contains many unknown things in the world
and many humans can make a difference.

Please submit your comments by the end of the meeting, or, if you wish you may mail your
comments attention to:

Bill Evanson
DLNR/DOFAW
54 S. High St., Rm. 101
Wailuku, HI 96793

Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact Bill at (808) 264-9325, or by email
at william.d.evansons@hawaii.gov.

25 pgs total

COMMENT FORM

‘ĀHIHI-KĪNA‘U NAR/KEONE‘Ō‘IO PUBLIC INFORMATIONAL MEETING
November 3, 2010, Lokelani Intermediate School, Cafeteria

Resident Name: _____
Address: _____

Phone: _____

Email Address: _____

Please write any comments you wish to share on the draft management plan below.
Comments received will help to ensure that your interests and concerns are communicated to decision makers.

Please keep the closed area closed. Let our Kapuna and the police let our island be in peace. Keep the area closed. Mahalo! Sincerely, Hana.

Please submit your comments by the end of the meeting, or, if you wish you may mail your comments attention to:

Bill Evanson
DLNR/DOFAW
54 S. High St., Rm. 101
Wailuku, HI 96793

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DLNR.CO.PublicDLNR/DLNR/StateHiUS

11/22/10 11:34 AM

To Emma Yuen/DLNR/StateHiUS@StateHiUS, William D Evanson/DLNR/StateHiUS@StateHiUS

cc Michelle G Jones/DLNR/StateHiUS@StateHiUS

bcc

Subject Fw: Ahihi Kinau NAR Comment Meno

History:

➡ This message has been forwarded.

----- Forwarded by DLNR.CO.PublicDLNR/DLNR/StateHiUS on 11/22/2010 11:33 AM -----



1

To dlnr@hawaii.gov

cc

11/19/2010 02:48 PM

Subject Ahihi Kinau NAR Comment

Aloha DLNR,

In regards to the Ahihi Kinau N.A.R. I feel that it is in the best interest of the people of Hawaii and the Maui community that the CLOSED AREAS STAY CLOSED!

The clear intention of a NAR is simple.
DO NOT FORGET the Kupuna who are resting in PEACE amongst the lava fields of Kalua O Lapa.

In regards to the DRAFT Management Plan please modify to address the following:

GOAL # 1 of Plan: Manage Human Use: KEEP CLOSED AREAS CLOSED to ADDRESS BURIALS.

**** Create Fence/ Barrier around MAONAKALA Village**NO ONE/ THING SHOULD BE allowed access as it is still in near pristine condition.**

ACTION H1(f)- CLOSE ENTIRE RESERVE TO ADDRESS UXO.

ACTION H2 (a) Fence of CLOSED AREAS REGARDLESS of COST!

ACTION H2(b)- Place cultural resources as PRIORITY #1!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

It was the work of the Kupuna whom are buried amongst the lava fields are why the natural beauty of Ahihi-Kinau exists TODAY!! Maonakala especially! REMOVE INVASIVE SPECIES from VILLAGES!!

ACTION H3(a) Develop protocol lead by cultural resource working group

to regulate when/ whom are allowed access to cultural sites. Make cultural awareness priority #1 amongst ALL visitors.

ACTION M1(d) ONLY allow parking FEE at ONE LOCATION- "DUMPS".

** DO NOT ALLOW PAID USER FEES IN CLOSED AREAS**

ONLY allow ONE guided hike into NAR to Mokuha as trail damage would be minimal.

Kalaeloa trail access is too near anchialine ponds.

Please remember that the keiki of the future have the right to walk the lands of their ancestors AS THEY WERE LEFT. Your OWN VEHICLES SAY:

Ua mau ka ea o ka aina i kaponono.

THE LIFE OF THE LAND IS PERPETUATED IN RIGHTEOUSNESS by US its PEOPLE!!

I urge the DLNR to think of the larger picture of Ahihi Kinau and the hundreds if not thousands of years of people doing what is PONO to sustain their everyday life, the HAWAIIAN WAY! This aina is not a "facility" "Fishbowl", "Aquarium" or "Dump" or another page in "MAUI REVEALED" but a home, place of survival and final resting place for hundreds if not thousands of Kupuna.

Mahalo Piha

Kumu Iokepa Meno

DLNR.CO.PublicDLNR/DLNR/StateHiUS on 11/15/2010 02:47 PM
To: Michelle G Jones/DLNR/StateHiUS@StateHiUS

cc

11/15/10 02:48 PM

bcc

Subject: Fw: Protecting Ahihi A Turner

----- Forwarded by DLNR.CO.PublicDLNR/DLNR/StateHiUS on 11/15/2010 02:47 PM -----

To: dlnr@hawaii.gov

cc

11/08/2010 07:18 AM

Subject: Protecting Ahihi

To All,

I would like to see the blue shirted volunteers at Ahihi again. I liked the way they were trying to protect the beautiful area by trying to educate the public. I liked to be able to ask about some of the fish I had seen and be able to ask the volunteer what kind it was. These volunteers were nice and helpful. One in particular even took his kayak out and rescued a visitor who had become exhausted trying to snorkel back to shore. These volunteers appeared to me to have a hard job with some visitors who refused to do what was asked of them to help preserve the area. More than once when I was there a visitor would tell a volunteer that he had always "done it this way and wasn't going to change". I know a couple of the scuba diver instructors would bring large groups of (paying) customers out to the cove and claim they were all relatives from the mainland.

I would like the reserve protected to the fullest extent. I want my grandkids and their future families to enjoy this place as much as I have. I don't have the stomach to visit Ahihi anymore. All those people crowded into the cove without regard for when they enter the water even though there are posted signs telling them where to enter. They carry bags of frozen peas to feed the fish and likely kill them or make them aggressive. I even saw a woman holding onto a turtle for a ride. We need to protect what we are blessed with now before it's too late.

Sincerely,
adturner



DLNR.CO.PublicDLNR/DLNR/StateHIUS

11/15/10 02:45 PM

To: Michelle G Jones/DLNR/StateHIUS@StateHIUS

cc

bcc

Subject: Fw: Ahihi-Kinau Natural Area Reserve - K. Caluwe

Michelle I have received 9 email testimonies since Oct. 26, 2010. This is the latest one. I will send each one to you forthwith. I already copied Bill Evanson on each one.

Debbie

----- Forwarded by DLNR.CO.PublicDLNR/DLNR/StateHIUS on 11/15/2010 02:43 PM -----



Caluwe, Ken (Addison)

To: [Redacted]

cc

Subject: Ahihi-Kinau Natural Area Reserve

11/15/2010 01:07 PM

Below are my comments regarding the plan being formulated for the Ahihi-Kinau Natural Area Reserve.

My wife and I first visited Hawaii in 2001. After visiting all the islands we decided Maui was the best suited for us and now visit twice a year.

Hawaii was the 49th state we visited after putting our three daughters through college. In addition to college, we also did the Griswold's vacation routine and took our girls to every major National Park in the Continental United States. I give you this information to let you know how thankful we are for our National Park system and the wonders they have preserved for us and future generations to enjoy. Our National Parks and all natural wonders need to be preserved for current and future generations to enjoy and explore on their own.

In our visit in 2003 we discovered the snorkeling spot known as the Aquarium in the Ahihi-Kinau Natural Area Reserve. We had only snorkeled a couple of times from shore previously and never in the open ocean. This immediately became our only destination for snorkeling. I have listed the primary reasons we feel this spot is so ideal for us.

- * The scenic hike to get to the Aquarium
- * The amazing variety of tropical fish
- * The serenity of the area and total lack of other people
- * The clarity of the water
- * The calmness of the water
- * How protected it feels from the open ocean

In each of our two week visits to Maui we always scheduled one day each week for our snorkeling adventure to the Aquarium. I call it an adventure because our schedule usually ran as follows:

- Leave West Maui at 9:00 AM and arrive at Ahihi-Kinau parking area around 10:30 AM
- Hike to Aquarium and arrive around 11:30 PM
- Snorkel from 11:30 PM to 12:30 PM
- Eat our pack lunch from 12:30 PM to 1:30 PM
- Snorkel from 1:30 PM to 2:30 PM
- Hike out and arrive back at the car around 3:30 PM
- Drive back to West Maui and arrive around 5:00 PM
- Just in time for beverages and watching the sunset

I have always been astonished to read of the negative human impact on the Ahihi-Kinau Natural Reserve. In our 10 snorkeling adventures to the Aquarium we never encountered more than 6 people at the Aquarium; which included us. Over the five years we were fortunate enough to visit this area we also never noticed any deterioration to the area from human impact.

My wife and I are totally for preserving natural wonders and controlling human impact but we also feel that our natural wonders need to be available to us to explore on our own and at very minimal cost.

Living near Chicago, my wife and I also visit an area called the BWCA (Boundary Water Canoe Area). This is a wilderness area bordered by the United States and Canada, which we access just outside the town of Ely, Minnesota. The particular lake we fish is Basswood within the BWCA. This area is highly restricted with no cans or bottles and a permit must be secured to enter the BWCA. The use of motors is illegal on the majority of the lake but a small area has been left for us fisherman to enjoy with a restriction of a 25 HP motor.

I bring up the BWCA permit system as an example of way to control the volume of people entering this area because the daily permit is very reasonable. If you force us to hire a guide and eliminate our ability to enjoy this natural wonder at our own leisurely pace you will be depriving us of one of the wonders of Maui. You have already taken this from us for the last two years. I hope you don't take it from us for life.

Sincerely

Ken Caluwe





DLNR.CO.PublicDLNR/DLNR/StateHiUS

11/15/10 02:47 PM

To Michelle G Jones/DLNR/StateHiUS@StateHiUS

cc

bcc

Subject Fw: Public comment on draft management plan
Ahihi-kina u nar L Tesar

----- Forwarded by DLNR.CO.PublicDLNR/DLNR/StateHiUS on 11/15/2010 02:47 PM -----



11/11/2010 06:56 AM

To <dlnr@hawaii.gov>

cc

Subject Public comment on draft management plan Ahihi-kina
u nar

The draft management plan is very comprehensive and well-written; I applaud your efforts in communication. This is matched by my hope that the plan will be implemented as planned.

I also can understand the frustration at the inability to enjoy the reserve as they have for years of the local peoples that have come to love and benefit from walking the area safely and with respect. You do great damage to the respect and reputation of the DLNR by withholding this access as long as you have and the longer you continue to do so the greater the frustration and anger builds.

Do something ASAP about controlled local access. Period. Implement the rest of the plan as you can. Stop trying to be perfect and please some of the people now.

Linda Tesar-Amimoto M.A.





DLNR.CO.PublicDLNR/DLNR/StateHiUS

11/15/10 02:46 PM

To Michelle G Jones/DLNR/StateHiUS@StateHiUS

cc

bcc

Subject Fw: Comments on Ahihi Kina'u Draft management Plan
T Croly

----- Forwarded by DLNR.CO.PublicDLNR/DLNR/StateHiUS on 11/15/2010 02:46 PM -----



Tom Croly

11/12/2010 02:14 PM

To <dlnr@hawaii.gov>

cc

Subject Comments on Ahihi Kina'u Draft management Plan

Could the recipient of this email confirm that this is indeed the correct place to send comment on the Ahihi-Kina'u draft management plan by reply email

Tom Croly

Comments on Draft plan for Management of Ahihi-Kina*u Natural area reserve
Thomas Croly -
November 12, 2010

Upon review of the proposed draft management plan for Ahihi-Kina*u NAR I submit the following comments for consideration by the Board of Land and Natural Resources. The plan is very comprehensive in its scope. I am commenting only on the plan for managing human use and access.

The proposal in the plan for managing human use is far too restrictive and is not in the interests of the people of Hawaii.

Ahihi-Kina*u is one of the few accessible areas on the island of Maui where a coral reef system can be observed that has not been compromised by upland development and associated runoff. Public access to this incredible natural resource must be paramount in any management plan.

Neighboring landowners within, and adjacent to, the reserve pose the greatest human threat to this area. Yet these same landowners and residents are the ones having the most influence on the use of this public resource. For this reason this plan is severely flawed.

Any viable plan will include a way for the public to access and snorkel in Mokuha, the area known as the Fish Bowl, and Kalaeloa, known as the Aquarium. This could be managed by guided hikes lead by volunteers. The idea of restricting such hikes to only paid hikes lead by paid state employees is

not in the public's best interest and there is no basis for such highly restrictive access as proposed.

Improvements to the trails and signs designating areas off limits should be included as a means to manage public access. Closure of the reserve or vast areas of it is not the best plan for management of human use.

The number of visitors to the reserve is grossly overstated in the plan. The reserve exists at the "end of the road" and most cars entering the reserve are doing so simply out of curiosity of what exists at the end of the road. The vast majority of these visitors never actually set foot off the road or parking areas.

For those visitors who do go beyond the road and enter the reserve, their primary purpose is for recreational snorkeling. The majority of these visitors snorkel at Kanahena Cove (Ahihi Cove) and Maonakala (the dumps). These areas were benefiting tremendously by the volunteer organization called Action Ahihi that had been manning these areas and giving helpful advice concerning the rules of the reserve and how visitors could limit their impacts while enjoying themselves.

The discontinuation of this program at the request or direction of the DLNR employees was inappropriate. Replacing such a program by expanding DNLR staff is fiscally irresponsible and is an unnecessary expansion of government at a time when the state can least afford it.

The protection of the ecologically fragile anchialine ponds seems the most significant reason cited for closing off access to most of the reserve. The public has little interest in accessing or interacting in the anchialine ponds. Impacts to these resources are accidental and caused by lack of direction and knowledge. These resources can be protected by taking less drastic steps than denying all the people of Hawaii access to this reserve.

For several years prior to the closure, visitors unfamiliar with the safest and most direct routes to the snorkeling spots did wander off course and impact the ponds. These diversions and interactions could have been avoided by some trail makings, but instead the opposite actions took place, as individuals attempted to hide the trails, seemingly in the effort to create a sense of chaos in the reserve and amplify impacts.

Creating a fee structure for access to this area could be an idea with merit, but it cannot be used simply as a way to increase staffing of the DNLR. The staffing of these state employees has increased dramatically in just that past few years with little effect on managing the reserve, beyond enforcement of the closure. The expansion ideas laid out in the draft report are far too complicated for the Board to consider in the short term and would require changes to NAR rules and would be difficult to implement efficiently. I urge the Board to refrain from consideration of this portion of the plan, which is presently out of the Board's purview.

I started these comments by stating that this plan is flawed because many of the people most directly involved with it are the residents and landowners in, and adjacent to, the reserve. These same people have been working towards a permanent closure of the reserve from the initial formation of

their advisory group in 2004. These folks are not working in the interest of the people of Hawaii but are driven by a fundamental desire to remove the tourists from what they view as their kuleana. But the NAR belongs to the people of Hawaii and the people should not be denied access to it.

Education and public awareness is the key to the reserve's long-term health. Shutting it down and limiting access to only a few paying customers is not a management plan. The DNLR should be there to help educate and collaborate with the public for the best course of action to protect the reserve. Instead they are being utilized as guards at the gate. This basic idea of shutting out the public is the heart of the proposed draft plan and must be rethought.

Ahihi-Kinau Natural Area Reserve Management Plan Comment / Input

Aloha ... I am 25 year Maui science teacher and naturalist. I have visited Ahihi-Kinau Natural area many times over decades and I find the proposed management "plan" for Ahihi-Kinau Natural Area in the south Maui overly restrictive, user non-friendly, and a very heavy handed starting point for a management plan. Here are my main concerns/ points:

1. A very expensive perimeter fence is not needed. Beyond the high cost, it will be visually obtrusive (the majority of the terrain is lava rock - fence only the pond areas if needed) and a pay parking lot? ... Again obtrusive in a natural area; how about an educator rather than a parking attendant? Furthermore, although the numbers of visitors that hike out to "Fish bowl" has increased in the last ten years. That trail does not get the usage that has been published (700 visitors daily?). It is a rugged hot walk in which I have never seen more than a few groups of people.

2. To begin with, develop a user plan that is less restrictive and monitor its impact before implementing such draconian measures. Closing the main attraction for users (the snorkeling areas-"Fishbowl") and doing \$35 tours is ridiculous, financially restrictive for locals, and sounds like a way to effectively close the area for reasonable recreational use before trying other less restrictive management practices!

3. Informational/educational signage on proper usage and practices along with limited access (number of visitors and/or days the area is open could be controlled) would be a reasonable way to begin effective management. This could be combined with education and "user- friendly" patrols and educational volunteers by the DNLR as needed.

Just basically closing natural areas that are popular is a new disturbing trend, that reflects badly on Hawaii, the DNLR, and the county ... as opposed to developing a plan that encourages the public to enjoy and respect the natural environment along with the opportunity for education and conservation in the least restrictive and low cost (for all) manner.

I do not support this new proposed management plan for Ahihi-Kinau Natural Area and suggest a rethinking of the plan to a less restrictive approach (possibly by limiting numbers of visitors and using education at least as a starting point), certainly before spending millions of dollars on an obtrusive perimeter fence, pay parking lot with attendant, and \$35 tours! Ahihi-Kinau should not become a DNLR "theme" park. Management and preservation should be initiated with a light hand to begin with and then modified as needed.

Sincerely, Robert F. Lovell, Makawao, HI

Robert F Lovell



DLNR.CO.PublicDLNR/DLNR/StateHiUS

11/22/10 11:40 AM

To Emma Yuen/DLNR/StateHiUS@StateHiUS, William D Evanson/DLNR/StateHiUS@StateHiUS

cc Michelle G Jones/DLNR/StateHiUS@StateHiUS

bcc

Subject Fw: Ahihi - Kina'u Detrick

----- Forwarded by DLNR.CO.PublicDLNR/DLNR/StateHiUS on 11/22/2010 11:38 AM -----



"Alex Detrick"

11/18/2010 05:05 PM

To <dlnr@hawaii.gov>

cc

Subject Ahihi - Kina'u

I attended the meeting regarding the Ahihi-Kina'u Reserve November 3rd in Kihei. There was only one representative from the DLNR present, Bill Evanson, DOFAW NARS Manager, Maui. The presentation was made by two employees of the Nature Conservancy. When someone from the audience tried to make a comment, Mr. Evanson sternly said this was disrespectful of the speaker, and the meeting was not to take comments, but to provide information only. Comments would have to be made in writing and put into a comment box or sent separately. Later he stated comments would have no effect, since the plan already had rubber stamp approval from NARS. This is a disgrace.

I have been a regular visitor to the Reserve for the past eleven years, some weeks every day, other weeks three or four times. The Reserve was well managed with two rangers. Apparently, Mr. Evanson's responsibility was to supervise the two rangers from an office 25 miles away. Since then 90% of the Reserve was closed and three rangers added, and recently 1-3 roving enforcement officers with guns and handcuffs. The plan is to further build up staff adding more rangers and a Reserve Manager. Three rangers could give the same hours of coverage that currently is provided by five rangers. (A third ranger is needed now because of the gate to keep cars out of the Dumps parking lot at night—a very good addition.) The senior ranger could be a supervisor and eliminate the off-site supervisor (whose own supervisor is yet another 10 miles away). Grants could be used to make the improvements in the plan. The cost should be within the NAR allocation shown in the proposed budget of \$180,000. The "minimum" budget of \$400,000 with a buildup to over \$1,000,000 is a disgrace.

The proposal to charge a fee to non-resident visitors is an awful plan in the face of declining tourism. I have talked to some visitors, who are here on Maui for a month, and come to the Reserve most of those days, and they are livid. They might not actually follow through, but they say they aren't coming back next year. Moreover, the plan for parking, toll booth, etc. is flawed. Twenty two spaces of parking adjacent to the Cove would be eliminated, so cars would be forced to proceed to a toll booth a quarter of a mile further on, funneling all traffic to the Dumps parking lot, which holds about 50 cars, and often has thirty to forty vehicles or more if the surf is up. A turnaround would need to be constructed and the lot expanded, destroying big chunks of lava on the protected land of the Reserve. If seven employees are necessary as is the case at Haleakala, much of the proposed fees would be eaten up. Apparently this cost isn't in the budget, nor the capital expenditures for added parking, turnaround, toll booth, etc. This is a disgrace.

Another part of the plan is to put up barbed wire fencing on the mauka side of the road to protect against goats. When asked in the prior meeting why the DLNR didn't simply shoot the goats, Mr. Evanson responded that he didn't want to go through all the paperwork to get this done. This is a disgrace.

One of the slides at the presentation showed a large group at the south end of the Cove. This was given as evidence of too many people visiting this part of the Reserve. There is a van parked next to the group in a no-parking zone, and if I'm not mistaken the group is really the NOAA delegation that was being escorted by the DLNR through the Reserve earlier this year. Using this as justification for more supervision, more rangers, and fees to pay for them is a disgrace.

Respectfully,

Catherine A. Detrick



DLNR.CO.PublicDLNR/DLNR/StateHiUS

11/15/10 02:48 PM

To Michelle G Jones/DLNR/StateHiUS@StateHiUS

cc

bcc

Subject Fw: Comments on Draft Management Plan A Detrick

----- Forwarded by DLNR.CO.PublicDLNR/DLNR/StateHiUS on 11/15/2010 02:48 PM -----



"Alex Detrick"

11/03/2010 05:14 PM

To <dlnr@hawaii.gov>

cc

Subject Comments on Draft Management Plan

Draft Management Plan for the Ahihi-Kina'u Reserve

I am adamantly opposed to the plan to charge an admission fee to the reserve, and the buildup in staff, including a Reserve Manager. Rather I would strongly recommend selling the office trailer, taking down the unsightly fence around it, and return to the staffing using two rangers—and a third lead ranger who would be productive in the field and replace the supervisor in the Base Yard office 25 miles away. (Or actually use the trailer to manage the reserve rather than trek back and forth from the Base Yard office.)

I am a former chief planning officer of a multi-billion dollar corporation on the mainland and now a Hawaii resident. I have seen the staffing at the reserve increase from a roving ranger, to two rangers and a supervisor, to five rangers and a supervisor (who also has a supervisor), to five rangers and supervisor and 1-3 roving enforcement officers (added in April when the budget for the last half of 2010 was under review). The proposed budget for future years is outrageous (even the low one—the high and moderate ones are in the category “get real”). In my management career I’ve seen hundreds of “bare bones” budgets that have more fat in them than a bucket of lard. Remember 90% of the reserve is closed. How can there be “further deterioration?”

The plan is not visitor friendly when visitor counts are down, and the proposed fee and need for residents to go through an identity check and be under surveillance from a cadre of rangers and enforcement officers will make the reserve even more, for lack of a better term, like a police state

rather than a Maui refuge. The really good visitors who stay a week or more and snorkel at the reserve most of those days are going to be particularly livid. Twenty two parking spaces adjacent to the Cove are going to be eliminated, and the people funneled into a parking lot that holds about 50 vehicles—considerable expansion of the parking lot will be needed with destruction of the lava adjacent to the existing lot. When there are surfers as well as snorkelers (the snorkeling is surprisingly good even on days that have fairly good surf), watch out, everyone gets funneled into an entry spot about 7 yards wide. This is a poorly crafted plan that is bound to create a lot of animosity. I have visited the reserve over 4,000 times, and from my experience I can say with some assurance, two rangers and numerous locals to report boats in the reserve, illegal fishing/spear fishing, hiking in the 90% protected areas, and opii pickers, only 2 rangers are needed, but a third ranger, who can serve as a lead ranger/supervisor, gives the same amount of coverage (just fewer times when two rangers are patrolling the reserve together) with one less supervisor at a desk miles away. This should be able to be done for far less than half the proposed “bare bones” plan of \$400,000 (which is approximately double current expenditures) and require minimal or no funding over the \$125,000 NAR allowance, and it will protect the reserve. Grants should be used to do improvements within the reserve, but added protection and supervision are not needed.

Submitted with Aloha,

Alex Detrick

Kihei, Hawaii



"Emily J. Fielding"
<efielding@tnc.org>

11/04/10 01:12 PM

To <William.D.Evanson@hawaii.gov>,
<Michelle.G.Jones@hawaii.gov>,
<Betsy.H.Gagne@hawaii.gov>
cc "Evelyn H. Wight" <ewight@tnc.org>, "Manuel Mejia"
<mmejia@tnc.org>

bcc

Subject RE: Comments on Draft Management Plan

For the record – 2 public comment letters from last night's open house meeting.

From: Manuel Mejia
Sent: Thursday, November 04, 2010 1:04 PM
To: Emily J. Fielding
Cc: Evelyn H. Wight
Subject: FW: Comments on Draft Management Plan

From: Alex Detrick
Sent: Wednesday, November 03, 2010 9:24 PM
To: Manuel Mejia
Subject: Fw: Comments on Draft Management Plan

Hi Manuel,

It was nice to meet you tonight. Please share & forward to Matt both this e-mail and my husband's letter below. I'm not sure that we have his current e-mail.

As you can see there are many people here who care very much about the Ahihi Preserve. Many of them did not come to the meeting.

Gosh it's sad to think that the meeting tonight was considered an open forum. Even Joe the Plumber had his say at a town meeting! It was a big mistake not to let people speak and ask questions. That was the only way to clear up some of the discrepancies in the proposal. Believe it or not some of us actually read the 100 page proposal and were prepared to offer suggestions and make comments. We have friends who told us not to bother attending the meeting because it would have no impact and people's opinions and thoughts would not be honored. Now I see that this is true. Here are the points that were presented tonight that we would like to have commented on:

1. Many of us were shocked to hear Bill Evanson say that the proposal will be implemented by Feb. 2011. It was made quite clear that nobody's opinion was important even though we were told to stuff suggestions into a box.

2. The fact that they got the memo of understanding today about the ownership of the road was very interesting but completely glossed over. The idea of gating the road at Dumps and charging admission is completely absurd! It is also unclear as to what rules and regulations they want to impose on La Perouse.

3. The fact that they are planning to hire more rangers is absolutely unnecessary. We so often see 2 rangers and an enforcement officer just chatting at La Perouse with apparently no other purpose in mind. They do not need MORE enforcement down there. One roaming ranger on at a time could handle this job with trained local volunteers (who are there everyday anyway) for support.

I will send a copy of this to Bill Evanson as well but he tends to be somebody who doesn't listen or have a high regard for alternative solutions. He is also on a mission to make Maui into Oahu. His eyes glazed

I will send a copy of this to Bill Evanson as well but he tends to be somebody who doesn't listen or have a high regard for alternative solutions. He is also on a mission to make Maui into Oahu. His eyes glazed over in anticipation at the thought of massive fees to create a massive bureaucracy on top of additional funding by the state.

With Warm Aloha,

Cathy Detrick

----- Original Message -----

From: Alex Detrick

To: dlmr@hawaii.gov

Sent: Wednesday, November 03, 2010 5:14 PM

Subject: Comments on Draft Management Plan

Draft Management Plan for the Ahihi-Kina'u Reserve

I am adamantly opposed to the plan to charge an admission fee to the reserve, and the buildup in staff, including a Reserve Manager. Rather I would strongly recommend selling the office trailer, taking down the unsightly fence around it, and return to the staffing using two rangers—and a third lead ranger who would be productive in the field and replace the supervisor in the Base Yard office 25 miles away. (Or actually use the trailer to manage the reserve rather than trek back and forth from the Base Yard office.)

I am a former chief planning officer of a multi-billion dollar corporation on the mainland and now a Hawaii resident. I have seen the staffing at the reserve increase from a roving ranger, to two rangers and a supervisor, to five rangers and a supervisor (who also has a supervisor), to five rangers and supervisor and 1-3 roving enforcement officers (added in April when the budget for the last half of 2010 was under review). The proposed budget for future years is outrageous (even the low one—the high and moderate ones are in the category “get real”). In my management career I’ve seen hundreds of “bare bones” budgets that have more fat in them than a bucket of lard. Remember 90% of the reserve is closed. How can there be “further deterioration?”

The plan is not visitor friendly when visitor counts are down, and the proposed fee and need for residents to go through an identity check and be under surveillance from a cadre of rangers and enforcement officers will make the reserve even more, for lack of a better term, like a police state rather than a Maui refuge. The really good visitors who stay a week or more and snorkel at the reserve most of those days are going to be particularly livid. Twenty two parking spaces adjacent to the Cove are going to be eliminated, and the people funneled into a parking lot that holds about 50 vehicles—considerable expansion of the parking lot will be needed with destruction of the lava adjacent to the existing lot. When there are surfers as well as snorkelers (the snorkeling is surprisingly good even on days that have fairly good surf), watch out, everyone gets funneled into an entry spot about 7 yards wide. This is a poorly crafted plan that is bound to create a lot of

animosity. I have visited the reserve over 4,000 times, and from my experience I can say with some assurance, two rangers and numerous locals to report boats in the reserve, illegal fishing/spear fishing, hiking in the 90% protected areas, and opii pickers, only 2 rangers are needed, but a third ranger, who can serve as a lead ranger/supervisor, gives the same amount of coverage (just fewer times when two rangers are patrolling the reserve together) with one less supervisor at a desk miles away. This should be able to be done for far less than half the proposed "bare bones" plan of \$400,000 (which is approximately double current expenditures) and require minimal or no funding over the \$125,000 NAR allowance, and it will protect the reserve. Grants should be used to do improvements within the reserve, but added protection and supervision are not needed.

Submitted with Aloha,
Alex Detrick
Kihei, Hawaii

COMMENT FORM

‘ĀHIHI-KĪNA‘U NAR/KEONE‘Ō‘IO PUBLIC INFORMATIONAL MEETING

November 3, 2010, Lokelani Intermediate School, Cafeteria

Resident Name:

Catherine Detrick

Phone:

Address:

Email Address:

Please write any comments you wish to share on the draft management plan below.
Comments received will help to ensure that your interests and concerns are communicated to decision makers.

We were very disappointed in your "proposal." I am
reluctant to say the word proposal because you have
already said this will be implemented by Feb. 2011.
This is not a proposal then. It is a done deal.
People have wanted to volunteer and get involved
but never had the opportunity.

The only people who have tracked the area in the
past are the DLNR with the ropes & trails.
The area does not need you to protect it... the
local citizens would do a better job - why don't
you try asking them to get involved instead of a proposal
to move it and staff.

action

Please submit your comments by the end of the meeting, or, if you wish you may mail your comments attention to:

Bill Evanson
DLNR/DOFAW
54 S. High St., Rm. 101
Wailuku, HI 96793

Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact Bill at (808) 264-9325, or by email at william.d.evansons@hawaii.gov.

COMMENTS ON THE AHINI-KINAU NATURAL RESERVE DRAFT MANAGEMENT PLAN

I have read the subject document and have the following specific comments followed by my overall impressions and proposed actions.

Page 8 Para 3 "is the most heavily used of the 19 Natural Area Reserves."

What is the basis for this statement, how is "used" defined?

If this is based upon traffic studies, then this probably overstates the issue, since according to information provided by William Everson at the public presentation on Wednesday November 3rd 2010. The traffic count only counted cars arriving at the Reserve and not what people did or did not do. (i.e. USING)

For those not familiar with Makena area, many visitors who come to Maui rent a car and quite naturally decide to explore and check out beaches. The studies report that 75% are rental cars.

One of the easiest and nicest scenic drives is to go towards the South part of the Island. There is a beautiful drive of the great beaches from Kaanapali down through Lahaina, past Maalaea Bay, Kihei, Wailea, Makena and guess what, you end up at Ahihi Kinau. Many tourists take this drive and just end up at the reserve automatically as it is at the end of the road. Many just get out for a while stretch their legs, look around and in many cases leave within 30 minutes. They basically got there by accident and very few actually take on the, senior person challenging, 1 hour hikes across the lava fields to the snorkel spots and back.

The overused unsubstantiated USAGE statistic damages the credibility of much of the rest of the document and any financial projections on which it is based. The document fails when it counts cars and not what people do at the most used areas. Cars don't trample the lava, poop in the rocks, or step in the pools. Inflated numbers maybe intended to attract funds but unfortunately when credibility is destroyed the opposite result is achieved with irreparable financial consequences.

Page 8 Para 4 cites the 2005 DRAFT PLAN, Reading that Plan shows that numerable goals set by the plan have not been achieved, the money was spent however, and no mentions of failures to accomplish objectives are cited.

Page 9 Section 2 discusses fences as on Page 70 and other parts of the document. No mention of the fact that this would take over 5 miles of fencing, approximately 25,000 lineal feet at \$10 per foot would be \$2.5 million. Due to the terrain it could cost even more. There is no credible plan to raise this sort of funding so why put it in? You can hunt a lot of goats and deer for that kind of money.

Page 15 Para 2 States that in the reserve less than 2% of the ecotype vegetation is left.

This is a lava flow; common sense says it wiped everything out, what else is expected?

Page 15, Chart at bottom Shows "Wilderness Qualities" as being of "GLOBAL SIGNIFICANCE"

This seems like a stretch to compare to the Amazon Basin, Serengeti, and other real Globally Significant places. Just more over hype that loses credibility.

Page 17 Para 2. 250,000 visitors per year.

This was previously discussed as a perverted statistic since the Reserve is a cul de sac and more frequently a turnaround point for beach drive by tourists.

Page 18 Conserving Biodiversity-

Generic lecture on this subject is hardly part of a MANAGEMENT PLAN but it does fill up space.

Page 25 Para 4 State a "roving Naturalist" was placed in the park to collect human use data between 2004-2008.

It might be interesting to see what human use data was collected and if it can shed a credible light on real usage of the reserve.

Page 26 Para 1 States the CRMP studies 2004-2007 showed the Reserve in "RELATIVELY GOOD TO EXCELLENT CONDITION" except some specific areas. This while very credible seems to be in conflict with the writings of others in this report

Page 31 Para 1 shows Climate Change and Severe Weather as threats to the Reserve. Why not add meteorites and Atom Bombs. This is nothing to do with a MANAGEMENT PLAN but does add filler.

users vs drive-bys

Page 31. 1.3.1 Human Use.

Once again we see the Statistic of 250,000 presented as if it represents USERS.

All other data except Molikini can be substantiated by gate receipts as real USERS, and even Molokini is hardly a drive – by spot. All other locations have fees; it is self intuitive that charging fees for Ahihi Kinau similarly would greatly reduce drive- by traffic.

Page 32 3rd Para. States: During closure resources and human use are being monitored. What format and statistics have been collected and by whom. What use is it, as the snorkel spots which attract much of the real use have be closed to the public so any statistics will be skewed. It's closed. Let's open it up, return it to the public and then collect real data.

Page 34 Illegal Activities.

The document states these activities are down by 40%.

Use of percentages is a way of obfuscating reality. What are the real numbers? After all 50% of 2 is only one. Let's give credit to the rangers where credit is due.

The biggest problem for years was always vehicle break-in and one would suspect that the numbers were not publicized by Maui police as it would shock the tourists and paint an unfavorable picture of their ability to stop the crime. Now that the public cannot park and go snorkeling at the 2 key spots, of course the crime has gone down, so the statistics are again skewed.

Page 35 Alien Species in the reserve:

The document speaks of “introduced hoofed animals”

It would seem highly probable that the Hawaiians who lived in what remains of the villages had plenty of pigs and goats, and didn't think of them as alien or a threat; hunters will willingly take care of any overpopulation at no cost.

Again these are all statements that do not address the Title of the Document “Management Plan”

Pages 36, 37, 38,

Marine threats, Run off, Climate Change, Marine Debris.

Some specifics but mostly generic stuff that we are all familiar with. It fills up space but fails to address specifics of HOW management will be done.

Page 41 what we are protecting.

This takes another whole page to say what is simply contained in the last line of Para 2.

“All unique native resources known to be present in the reserve”

Pages 41 to 62.

These pages are basically an inventory of data and writings copied from reports with no specific decisions on How to Manage.

Page 63 Management;

This is just a collage of words with some Hawaiian words thrown in with translation to impress some (not sure who). Unlikely to be read much less understood by the great unwashed masses.

Page 64 Vision and 4 goals.

At last buried on page 64 some Goals all good and worthy and relatively specific.

Page 65 Strategic Actions Line 6. "This plan does not have specific work plans or budgets"

That says it all to the public. No Plan, No Budget, it's not their money

Page 66

Small print under the map reveals that the writers want to basically close off all the snorkeling areas and only allow paid guided tours.

Is it realistic to believe that many visitors will want pay to take a tour of at least 1 hr walking across hot lava fields without going in the greatest attraction, the snorkel spots. Doubtful and locals will surely reject this, killing that revenue stream.

Page 67. Paragraph 3 "establish a working group of the advisory group" etc.

This seeks to perpetuate the propagators of the concept of locking the public out, get more money for studies, adopt a lack of fiscal responsibility and remain oblivious to reality.

Page 68. Objective H-3 increase knowledge of the reserve by 300% over 2007 levels.

Hard to achieve since there is no credible base line of who knew what in 2007. Just more baseless statistics.

Page 69. Action H3 "Establish a sense of place."

A hackneyed phrase from the real estate world. In this context it suggests more studies, interviews, and document research, spend more money "FOR STAFF & Volunteers". What about the taxpaying public?

Who will pay, who will manage it, where will it all be stored, and how will it be protected. Not a Management Plan, just a wish list, sounds nice but probably falls under the jurisdiction of another government department and is going to have a hard time getting funded.

Page 70 Install Fence around the Boundary.

Over 5 miles of fence, over 25,000 lineal ft. to keep out the deer.

No mention of cost in the plan, if you could do it for only \$10/lineal ft that's \$2.5 million to stop deer wandering on the lava flow, just try taking that one to a finance committee

with the public present. A cheap solution that's very doable- try hunters, like the golf courses.

Page 70. Last lines: Reduce alien species and animals by 50% by 2015.

Hard to do since there is no count of what 100% is, and the Management Plan is not complete not funded and unlikely to be so by 2015 based upon current direction and progress.

Page 71. Line 12 "install automated vocalization recording devices to determine presence of seabirds"

I am sure the taxpaying public will fall over themselves to fund this one. The Management Plan provides no cost benefit analysis for this.

Page 72 Action A2(c) "monitor effects of Bio control on alien invasive gall wasps"

Hello, didn't they notice the wasps already got all the *wilwili* trees.

Who will pay, who will do it, what is cost vs. benefit to our sparse financial resources. Check with the Dept of Agriculture they know the effects already.

Page 75 Establish a 1 mile buffer zone around the reserve;

This incredible Section proposes Re Zoning and purchasing the necessary thousands of acres in this area.

Last I heard, Joe Sugarman's property was for sale at around \$20 million so on that basis you could probable acquire the rest for about another \$80 million. So \$100 million should be all required. As stated on Page 65 This PLAN has no specific work plans or BUDGETS.

Page 75 "Review and Influence progress on proposed development projects.

Proposes that "they", be involved in the State and County Permit review process.

This a terrible idea, the people who prepared this document to be in the review cycle? I can hardly imagine the excitement and anticipation that will greet this idea. This should really speed up the permitting process. Someone needs to get in touch with what is happening in this world.

Page 76: Prevent light pollution, that exceeds county lighting ordinances.

There are no specific County lighting ordinances that would apply and The Reserve is one of the darkest spots on Maui as any resident of the area already knows.

Page 76: Implement activities in the plan; line 1 by 2015.

This means shut out the taxpaying public for another 5 years.

Based upon current track record likely and still totally unacceptable.

Page 77: Build up the Rangers.

Good idea, they hopefully know what to really do, to let the Public in, enjoy ALL the Reserve has to offer in a practical and fiscally responsible way.

Page 77: "Empower and strengthen the advisory group."

Empower is a very scary word, hopefully the advisors only provided background information and cannot be held responsible for the lack of direction in this pathetic "Management Plan"

Page 78: "Complete the Reserves facility and infrastructure planning" more planning maybe getting done by 2015-2025.

Looks like a long term perpetual employment program with no results for 15 years, maybe. How many more Grants from HVB? How many \$ millions. And the public still can't use the reserve. Those children and grandchildren of ours will probably never see it.

Page 81 Summary Table of Objectives & Strategic Actions Table.

This table makes sense, and it would be better to just throw out the preceding 81 pages and add a cost budget and timeline to each item. That would actually approach part of a MANAGEMENT PLAN.

Page 83. Para 1 line 5: Generate Revenues to augment State funding.

No, not augment, make the Reserve self funding: car parking fees, concession shop and tours, if well done it should provide 100% Ranger funding. (As long as the authors of this document stay away.

Page 84. Para 1 line 1: "a quarter million visitors per year"

As previously mentioned these figures only represent cars that ended up at the end of the road and is no indication of how many people would proceed past a pay point. Any dollar figures based upon these figures would be totally misleading and can result in major shortfalls if the people who would actually pay to come in, park and savor the area, were to be one fifth equal to 50,000 per year or 140 per day.

Page 84. Fees;

Of course fees should be charged just like our National Parks. It is done all over the world, and some locations the fees are surprisingly high, but if the experience is highly enjoyable, most are glad to pay. DON'T be scared.
You can give breaks for kids etc but **it should not be free if you provide services**, like safe parking monitored, decent porta potties, rest areas, friendly rangers, great snorkeling etc.

Page 85, 86, 87, 88 Operating Budget:

This discussion is academic and naïve since a credible assessment of actual users has not been established. That assessment would provide a reasonable range of revenues that can be generated. Revenue generated is then the departure point for developing an achievable budget. Not usual for government but surprisingly successful in homes and businesses.

Page 90 Evaluation: Line 1. "a formal evaluation of the Reserve's management effectiveness will be completed in 2015"

Too late the horse will be gone, the money spent, and a lesson in how not to be a good steward of the public's funds will have been perpetrated on the taxpayers.

Pages 92, 93, 94, 95. \$ Charts

Mostly too small to read unless zoomed 200% don't worry no normal mortal will ever read or comprehend, but someone got paid for them probably. It does pad the report.

Pages 96, 97, 98, 99 lots of measuring and monitoring.

Cost to conduct these activities is never mentioned in this "Management Plan". However it is clearly many times more than the financing needs discussed on page 87.

Personal commentary on the 'Draft Management Plan'

At the presentation on November the 3rd 2010, I asked the question "what was the Budget for this document". The presenter stated that "there was no budget". That to me was a shocking statement and now that I have gone through it all page by page, I am even more disturbed by this reckless waste of funds.

Bill Evanson was more forthcoming and stated that they had received grants of \$100,000 from HVB and \$40,000 from another entity. On that basis alone this 100 page travesty comes out at **\$1400 per page** of mostly useless and seemingly copied data that never could be used as a real management plan. The writing committee behind it is apparently rudderless and totally unable to understand fiscal responsibility. Ideas espoused in the document that I have commented on would run into over \$100,000,000. (One Hundred Million US Dollars) purchase local properties for 1 mile, and fencing 5 miles, recording seabirds etc. These ideas would have no chance of ever getting funded or implemented. It appears as if it was done by a committee and each person wrote whatever they wanted, merely copying (about 70 pages of actual text and it took 8 pages to list all the references) that has been written elsewhere on various eco subjects and totally missing the point of how to fund and manage the reserve with limited resources and a fixed budget.

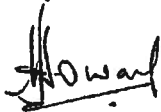
Of even greater concern, it seems that they are poised to take another trip to the well to get even more money for even more research and thereby perpetual employment. DLNR should demand OUR money back for this NON MANAGEMENT PLAN. You cannot expect Naturalists to develop a Management Plans just as you could not expect Management Specialists to write a Conservation Plan. My suggestion would be to just say NO, get rid of all those who did this work and turn the reserve over to the National Parks Service and get it opened up to the public generating its own funding asap. If the National Parks idea is too hard to swallow at least turn it over to Bill Evanson and his Rangers and let them just do it with minimum outside interference.

I am a long time senior resident and for the past 2 years have been unable to take my grandchildren, children or friends to one of the best snorkeling spots on Maui. The way things are going I may never be able to do it again in my lifetime, and that makes me passionate about this issue.

Rather than only criticize, I would like to offer a simple model for a brief Management Plan that should be able to be rapidly implemented by the Ranger team if supported, and at the same time it is be financially viable and self sustaining.

I completely support the concept of taking care of Ahihi Kinau and the good work the Rangers are trying to do, but in these times we must be practical and fiscally responsible. My proposed Conceptual Physical and Financial Management Plan outline is on the following pages for your review and perhaps action.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Howard", with a horizontal line drawn underneath the name.

Peter F Howard
Resident

Attached: Outline of a Conceptual Physical and Financial Management Plan for Ahihi Kinau Natural Area Reserve.

AHIHI KINAU NATURAL RESERVE
CONCEPTUAL PHYSICAL AND FINANCIAL
MANAGEMENT PLAN
NOVEMBER 15TH 2010

Outline for Management Plan for Ahihi Kinau Natural Area Reserve

Goal:

Develop sufficient funding so that the public can enjoy the Reserve managed in a friendly and environmentally conscience manner.

Resources:

The greatest resource available to meet this goal is also the greatest current threat. It is the General Public. The solution is Control.

Control:

1. Exercise control such that they (the Public) will willingly contribute money in exchange for the experience.
2. Exercise behavior control with physical barricades, decent toilet facilities, education, signs and all the usual things that the Parks service usually does.

How:

1. Develop a facility parking and entry fee schedule to be implemented immediately. Time 1 week.
 2. Stake out parking areas and proposed trails. Time 1 week.
 3. Immediately open up the reserve, all areas and rapidly verify how many users are ready to pay to enter and park. Time 2 months.
 4. Solicit bids from concessionaires to run the business end. Provide the visitor/user statistics learned in 3 above so that the concessionaire can calculate their estimated revenues and corresponding costs. Time 1 month.
 5. License the selected concessionaire to develop entry paid parking area, picnic tables, toilets, sell water, first aid kits, sun block, postcards, reserve guide books, and whatever else is appropriate. They can also sell tickets for tours and other events. The Reserve shall get all Parking and Ranger service related revenues plus a percentage of gross sales revenues of the concessionaire the Reserve. Time 3 months.
 6. Reserve opens daily 8am to 5pm generating funds to support Ranger activities. Total elapsed time 6 months and two weeks.
- Caution, do not try to micro manage the concessionaire they will figure out the best way to set up, what type of physical facilities they can provide to make a profit and provide sufficient income for the Reserve.

Ranger Efficiency:

Having turned over the traffic management and revenue generating work to the concessionaire, this relieves Rangers of those time consuming tasks. However, the Reserve is extensive and Rangers are a limited and precious resource who need to be able to reach the popular snorkel spots and other locations relatively quickly especially for emergencies which are a real fact of life and must be addressed for moral, human, and legal reasons.

A low cost but effective solution is electric golf carts that have a rear extension for evacuation of injured persons or carrying supplies.

Two approximately 6ft wide cinder trails, close to or following the existing foot trails can be graded on the lava, with a few wider passing spots.

This provides several advantages. It establishes relatively level walking paths for the public resulting in fewer injuries, and a fast and easy means for the Rangers to get around the reserve. Speedy evacuation for the critically injured or near drowning is a life and death situation that cannot be denied. This system also allows for easy transportation of maintenance equipment or Porta potties. A lava makes an excellent self draining trail base and can be easily graded without affecting the rest of the lava flow.

**Ahihi Kinau Natural Area Reserve
Balanced Budget (Example)
Operations, non Capital improvements
Based upon approximately 50,000 users per year**

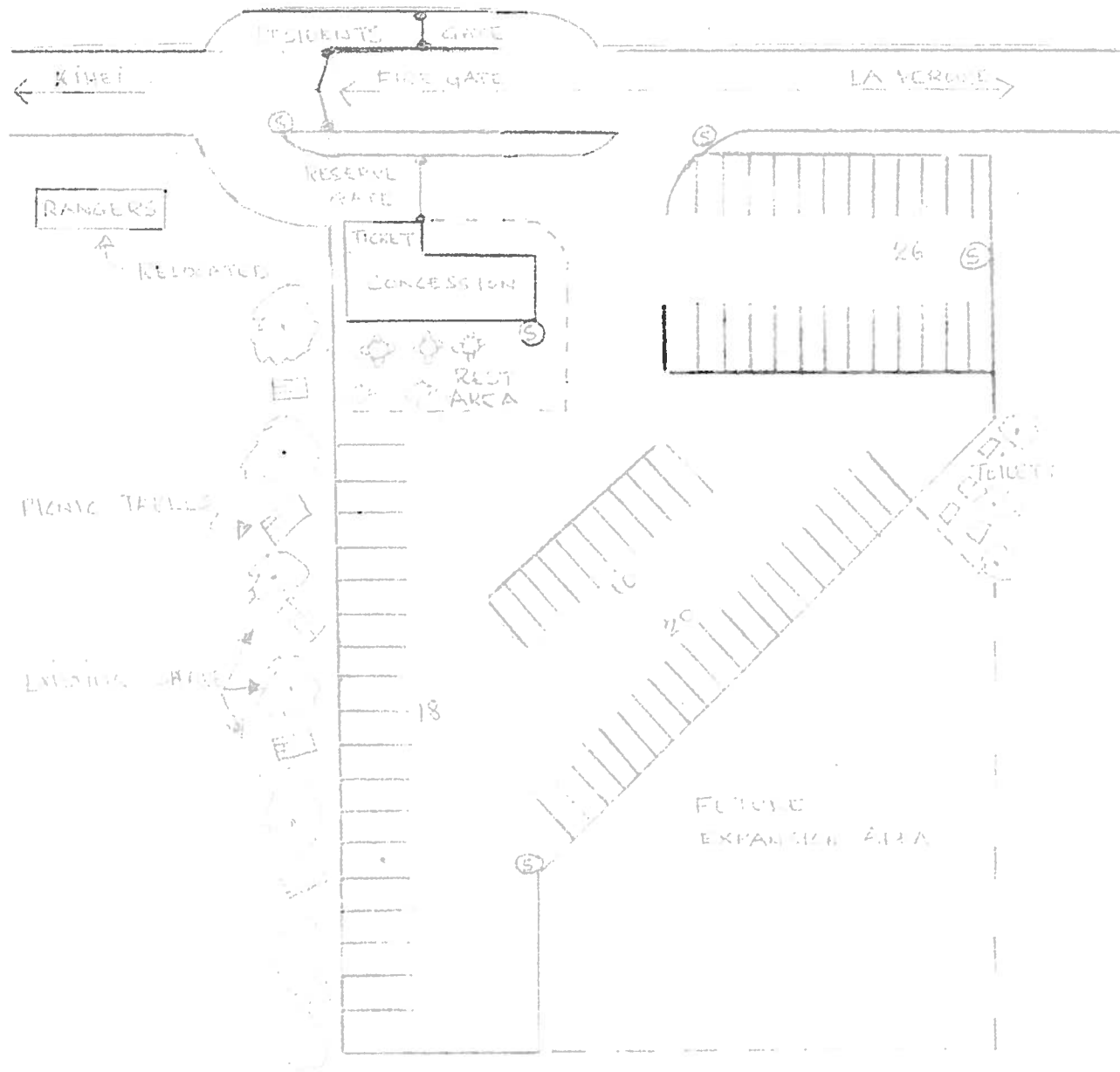
REVENUES:	\$
Parking:	
Week day cars 40 per day @ \$20 ea. = 800 x 260 days =	208,000
Week End cars 70 per day @ \$20 ea = 1400 x 104 days =	145,600
Less 25% discount for Children and Kamaaina = < 88,400 >	
Annual Parking Revenue:	264,600
Concession Sales:	
\$7 per car, (40 x 260) + (70 x 104) = \$ 123,760	
Concessionaire rent/ license @ 10% of gross sales =	12,376
Ranger Tour revenues:	
4 tours per week, average 8 person group at \$15 ea	<u>24,960</u>
(4 x 52 x 8 x 15)	<u>TOTAL REVENUES</u>
	301,936

COSTS:	
Salaries and Benefits,	
1 Head Ranger, per year \$ 85,000	
2 Rangers, \$ 120,000	
1 Helper \$ 30,000	
Annual salaries and benefits	235,000
Trucks and Equipment	
3 trucks per year maintained @ \$ 7000 ea = \$21,000	
Fuel per year 30,000 miles at 15mpg @ \$4.00/gal =	\$ 8,000
3 golf carts @ \$ \$2000 per year =	\$ 6,000
Tools and enclosure materials and signs =	\$ 15,000
Phone and communications @ \$200/month =	\$2,400
Utilities @ \$ 250 / month =	\$ 3000
Trash and toilets (Excludes Concession area) =	\$11,536
Total Trucks and equipment	<u>66,936</u>
<u>TOTAL COSTS</u>	301,936

Conceptual Reserve Entry and Concessionaire Area:

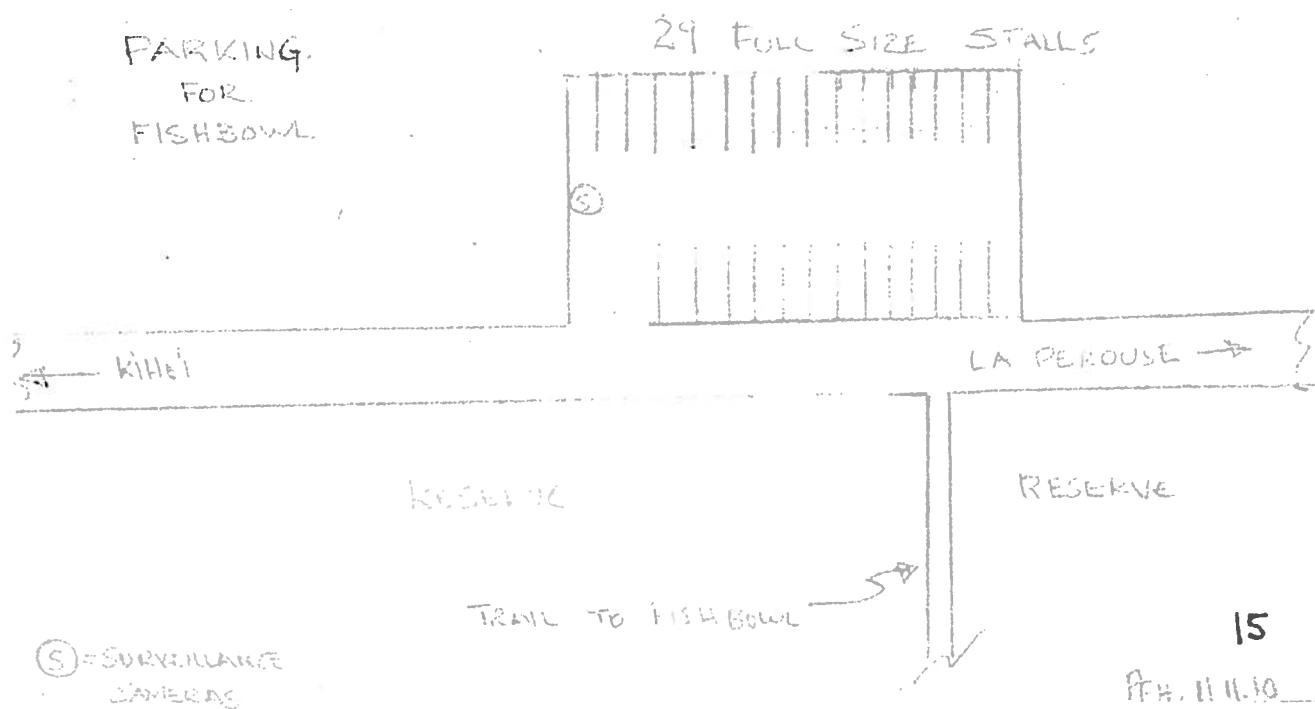
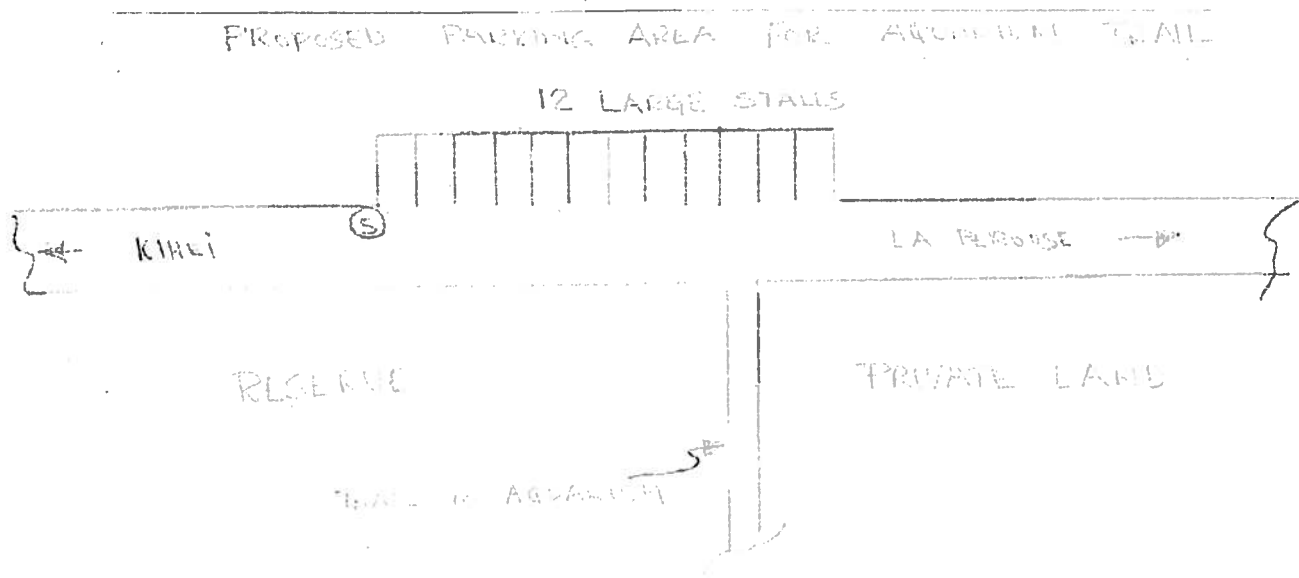
The following 2 attached sketches are conceptual in nature and needs to be developed to match prevailing conditions, needs of the concessionaire and the Rangers guidance.

AHIHI-KINAU NATURAL AREA RESERVE **CONCEPTUAL TRAFFIC CONTROL, PARKING AREA** **&** **CONCESSION CENTER**



- 50 - 10' x 12' SIZE PARKING SPACES
- 15 - 10' x 12' SIZE PARKING SPACES
- (S) - SURVEILLANCE CAMERA

AHIHI-KINAU NATURAL AREA RESERVE **CONCEPTUAL LAYOUT FOR SNORKEL PARKING AREAS** **AQUARIUM & FISHBOWL**





DLNR.CO.PublicDLNR/DLNR/StateHiUS

11/16/10 09:35 AM

To Michelle G Jones/DLNR/StateHiUS@StateHiUS
cc Emma Yuen/DLNR/StateHiUS@StateHiUS, William D
Evanson/DLNR/StateHiUS@StateHiUS

bcc

Subject Fw: Ahihi Kina'u Natural Area Reserve Draft
Management plan Fitzpatrick

ent

Dear Sirs,

I have reviewed the Ahihi-Kina'u Natural Area Reserve Draft Management Plan and would like to submit comment as well as recommendations on this rather extensive plan.

I feel this plan is rather complicated, large and now maybe not able to be done the way that is proposed. The costs to do the whole plan would render the inability of the general public to truly enjoy the immediate area. The trails to the once enjoyable area that is commonly known as "Fishbowl" have been closed to long. Why have a reserve if no one can enjoy the whole beauty of the area?

I remember when the area was first put up for reserve status. Problems, which were documented in this plan such as trash, human waste, and rave and alcohol parties, were discussed. The state at this time had no facilities at all down there, not even trash can. There was one kayak company that caused many problems and the others were quite helpful. Yet the state took the action of closing the areas to tours, hikers and put the area up for reserve status. We were told then this would be only temporary and now it is still closed. When is the plan for opening this area back up? According to this plan it may be many years before one can expect to enjoy the reserve area.

I feel that with the proper actions closure would not have been needed. If the state would have put up signage of the do's and don't such as stay on trail, hike out what you bring in, and rules regarding the area many problems would have been solved. If enforcement of existing rules and regulations would have been done, and actions taken against the parties who did not comply, the public would have been able to continue to enjoy the area in a responsible way. Yet the neither State nor County took any action. Closure was seemed to be the easier approach.

In regards to human waste, not even a portal-potty was in place for years. With the volume of traffic then in 1984 it merited action. Nothing was done. Why was not anything done except closure of the area trails and water resources a few years after problems were noted?

The road had been a jurisdiction area as well. Once paved and improved people parked all over and again the lack of signage designating areas to explore led to the problems. If one looks now, since signage saying no parking has been in place, people do not park on the road. Imagine if signage were put up in 1984. Seems like that issue would have been solved.

Which brings me to the plan. I feel this is overkill, the implementation of this plan will take years and the monies come from our strapped legislature will be slow in meeting the needs of this plan. In the meantime the trails will be closed, the snorkel spot known as aquarium will be a private spot for those who already live nearby or are staff of NARS. This is not very accountable to the people who visit that do the right thing but are not permitted access.

I have always wondered where the sewage from the houses in the reserve goes to and could they be the problem. This could be discovered by using dyes to see if their sewage can be part of the problem. Has this ever been done, I think not? They get grandfathered in and we get denied access to much of the Reserve.

I would therefore make the following recommendations of the plan:

1. Immediate marking of trails and opening up of the ocean areas so people can get the full usage of them and enjoy and cherish them
2. Signage such as at National Parks explaining the areas of the Reserve, the rules to enjoy the area and maps with clear areas of access and severe penalties to be given if someone breaks the rules
3. 3. If as in the study 250,000 people currently visit the area, then more bathroom facilities and trash areas need to be added to accommodate this and any expected increase in usage.
4. Signage to explain the cultural aspects of the reserve and explain the heeiau, the trail at the far end of the lava fields that goes toward Kinaa'u, and the water resources. The area

of the former village should be special cultural area and tours given to show the mountain to sea existence of Hawaiians in the area.

5. If a charge is implemented it should be similar to the National Park. A fee for each car, a yearly pass for documented residents via drivers license or state ID, and a senior citizen pass. The state should develop a plan to educate all about the need for such fee. And all monies should be directed to stay for use in maintaining the reserve. A charge of \$10 per vehicle, \$5 for residents, yearly passes for \$20 and senior resident citizens for free.
6. A toll both can be put in place at the entrance of the area, and designated parking areas, maps, and any handouts of the do's and don't and what to do to enjoy the area distributed. Information to the public and tourists is the critical part of maintaining the reserve. Any offenders should be severely dealt with in a prompt way.
7. The rangers assigned to the reserve should give designated talks and tours as needed. I feel they should be daily, a set time and all who want to come pay small service fee.
8. Regarding funding, it will take many years to get the state legislature and DLNR to allocate the proper resources. The area should be opened utilizing the existing budget of \$250,000 designated for the reserve. More monies should be asked for, grants both state, federal, and private should be asked for, and input from the National Park in Haleakela asked to how to implement efficiently and quickly this plan and maintain the area open to the public more then it is now.
9. Develop trails that one can see and stay on to the designated areas. Signage as to stay on trail, hike trash in and out, no dumping in area and no public restroom facilities in area of hike should be clearly in place.
10. Immediate opening of the area for enjoyment
11. A short class or video developed on the reserve and mandatory viewing or attending for those wanting to hike to areas now closed. The staff assigned to the area or trained volunteers can give the class/
12. Develop a public volunteer group that will assist in the mission to protect the reserve.

I FEEL THIS PLAN IS GRAND IN NATURE, WILL BE LONG IN IMPLIMENTATION, NOT HAVE THE RESOURCES NEEDED TO DO THE JOB, AND WILL KEEP THE AREA CLOSED FOR VISITORS TO THE AREA. WHY HAVE A RESERVE IF NO ONE CAN ENJOY THE AREA AND THE OCEAN ACTIVITIES, HIKING OPPORTUNITY, AND HISTORICAL VALUE ONE CAN GAIN FROM THE EXPERIENCE.

I have seen the DLNR and the delay and inaction of many plans. Where is the Maalae Boat improvements that have been discussed, funded and waiting for action for over 10 years? How have we maintained our state parks, and enforcement division properly to protect the areas designated for protection? This plan will become yet another bureaucratic level we currently cannot do nor implement. Small steps such as above would be a start to opening the area up quickly and not as costly.

Please open up the trails as soon as possible for enjoyment. The many years closed has served the people who visit this area in a bad way.

If this plan can not be done quickly, I feel actions such as moving the area to state park status or again petitioning the Federal Government to take area as an addition to the park and means to transfer guardianship to the Federal Government for protection should be started.

Aloha

Dennis Fitzpatrick

Nov. 20, 2010

DANIEL KANAHELE

TO:

DIVISION OF FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE
NATURAL AREA RESERVE SYSTEM
1151 PUNCHBOWL STREET, ROOM 325
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813
FAX: 808-587-0064
EMAIL: dlmr@hawaii.gov

REGARDING: COMMENTS ON THE DRAFT MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR ĀHIHI-KĪNA'U NAR.

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

Overall I find the 'Āhihi-Kīna'u Natural Area Reserve (NAR) Draft Management Plan well written and thoughtful. I appreciate that this plan has a strong cultural component and clearly and concisely stated vision, mission and management goals. My hope for this NAR as we move into the future is that it will realize its potential as a conservation ~~area~~ and a cultural classroom, and that it will become the cornerstone of a much larger cultural landscape in the makai of Honua'ula.

THE following are my comments on Section 2.0 The Action We Will Take:
2.3.1 Goal 1: Management of Human (H) use.

Action H.1(b) Effectively enforce user regulations, by zone.
Comment: Cultural use and access should be the least regulated and restrictive. Why? Cultural resources and natural resources are one and the same to Kanaka Maoli. Without access to cultural resources, i.e. natural resources, there is no ~~Maui~~ Hawaiian culture. The NAR is a place where Kanaka can live and learn their history and culture. Also this NAR is part of the ceded land inventory held in trust by the State of Hawaii.

DANIEL KANAHELE

TO:

DIVISION OF FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE
NATURAL AREA RESERVE SYSTEM
1151 PUNCHBOWL STREET, ROOM 325
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813
FAX: 808-587-0064
EMAIL: dlnr@hawaii.gov

REGARDING: COMMENTS ON THE DRAFT MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR AHIHI-KINAU NAR.

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

Action H1(b)

Comment: A NAR watch program, similar to the idea of a neighborhood watch program, could be effectuated in the area where local residents and frequent visitors to the area, like fishermen, could be invited to watch for and report criminal activities in the area of the NAR.

Action H2(a)

Comment: Cultural Resource Working Group should include lined descendants of the land.

Action H2(b)

Comment: If the AIS is contracted out, the selection process should involve NAR's staff, Advisory Group, and cultural resource working group. There are several Archaeological Consultants that do Surveys on island, but not all of them are equal. Select one that is respected in the Hawaiian Community for being an Hawaiian Archaeologist. I would hope that the AIS, when done for the NAR, would set the standard for how an AIS should be done in this Makua.

2.3.2 Goal 2: Control Alien Species and other Biological threats.

Comment: Very Good.

2.3.3 Goal 3: Prevent Land-based Impacts

Action L2(a) and Action L2(b)

Comment: Two very important actions. There is a lot of economic

Nov 20, 2010

DANIEL KANAHELE

TO:

DIVISION OF FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE
 NATURAL AREA RESERVE SYSTEM
 1151 PUNCHBOWL STREET, ROOM 325
 HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813
 FAX: 808-587-0064
 EMAIL: dlnr@hawaii.gov

REGARDING: COMMENTS ON THE DRAFT MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR AHIHI-KINAU NAR.

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

and ~~political~~ pressure to develop the area surrounding the NAR. The NAR can be an important influence towards helping to keep the area from Punalai to Keenae is a quiet place, of natural beauty and historic interest for generations to come.

Objective L1 and objective L2

Comments: The NAR can begin to characterize the watershed in which it is found. Objectives L1 and L2 are really ~~some~~ some of the elements used to characterize a watershed to help determine how to better manage the watershed. The South West Watershed Advising Group (SWAG) is in the process of characterizing the watershed immediately North of the NAR. Perhaps you could use SWAG as a future resource for the NAR management plan for objectives L1 and L2.

2.3.4 Goal 4. Build and maintain the Reserve's Mgmt Capacity

Comments: Funding is the white elephant in the room. Sadly, despite all the political rhetoric about the importance of our environment to State Administrators and legislators, the DNR has been chronically and shamefully underfunded for years. "Talk is cheap."

All collected funds should stay on-site and be used for management of the Ahiki-Kinau NAR.

Action M3(b)

Comment: There should be no gate built across Makani-Keenae Road. We have enough gates and gated communities in Wailea and Makani. Leave the road open to vehicular, bicycle, and pedestrian access. This is pono.

Pau



DLNR.CO.PublicDLNR/DLNR/StateHiUS

11/15/10 02:49 PM

To Michelle G Jones/DLNR/StateHiUS@StateHiUS
cc

bcc

Subject Fw: '*hihi*K*na'u Natural Area Reserve Draft Management Plan R. Long

----- Forwarded by DLNR.CO.PublicDLNR/DLNR/StateHiUS on 11/15/2010 02:48 PM -----



Rick Long

10/26/2010 05:03 PM

To <dlnr@hawaii.gov>

cc

Subject '*hihi*K*na'u Natural Area Reserve Draft Management Plan

Dear Sirs:

RE: '*hihi-K*na'u Natural Area Reserve

I attended the October 20th meeting of the A-K NAR Advisory Group and I have a copy of the draft management plan.

I support the general concepts and the general plan.

I also feel the coral within the coral reef ecosystem is of greater importance than the management plan acknowledges.

The diversity of species and the overall health of the coral is unique for the island of Maui and for the state of Hawaii.

Thank you.

Rick Long

Kihei, Hawaii



DLNR.CO.PublicDLNR/DLNR/StateHiUS

11/15/10 02:48 PM

To Michelle G Jones/DLNR/StateHiUS@StateHiUS
cc

bcc

Subject Fw: ahihi-kinau reserve L Beitler

----- Forwarded by DLNR.CO.PublicDLNR/DLNR/StateHiUS on 11/15/2010 02:48 PM -----



Laurie Beitler
remove goals of

11/01/2010 08:57 PM

To dlncr@hawaii.gov

cc

Subject ahihi-kinau reserve

To DLNR,

I hope the area through the lava flow where it is pristine snorkeling will not be closed off to residents.

For over 22 years we have taken many walks to the "aquarium" to enjoy the beauty of the ocean and wildlife the reefs and know better.

Please consider that those of us that live here and know how to take care of the ocean and reefs and trails should writers have done for greed by advertising to naive visitors about these precious places. Please,, please can appreciate the area..

I have an idea,, any one that takes an ocean awareness class and reef protection class (offered at whale sanctuary paying for a guided tour) a card would be proof.

I feel very strongly about this area and love it as if it were a live being,,, please don't close it off to us residents let it rest and were so hoping for a re-opening... I know tourists and visitors don't know any better,, but if the area is ruined....A guided tour for them is fine,, but please don't make us residents who cherish the area have to pay do,, Laurie Beitler

COMMENT FORM

'ĀHIHI-KĪNA'U NAR/KEONE'Ō'IO PUBLIC INFORMATIONAL MEETING
November 3, 2010, Lokelani Intermediate School, Cafeteria

Resident Name:

Address:

Phone:

Email Address:

Please write any comments you wish to share on the draft management plan below.
Comments received will help to ensure that your interests and concerns are communicated to decision makers.

Goal 2 - map for regulates plus

circles on map is confusing - I thought the yellow

red & green circles were potentially proposed

exclusion areas - confusing

Please submit your comments by the end of the meeting, or, if you wish you may mail your comments attention to:

Bill Evanson
DLNR/DOFAW
54 S. High St., Rm. 101
Wailuku, HI 96793

Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact Bill at (808) 264-9325, or by email at william.d.evansons@hawaii.gov.

COMMENT FORM

'ĀHIHI-KĪNA'U NAR/KEONE'Ō'IO PUBLIC INFORMATIONAL MEETING

November 3, 2010, Lokelani Intermediate School, Cafeteria

Resident Name:

CONRAD VENTURA

Phone: _____

Address:

81 preserve, I h

Email Address:

Please write any comments you wish to share on the draft management plan below. Comments received will help to ensure that your interests and concerns are communicated to decision makers.

I grew up in the Ahiki Kinau Reserve before it became a Reserve. THE GREE HOUSE ON THE HILL in the Ahiki Bay was built by my Grandfather and father & uncles. My family used the area from the 1950's to the 1970's and when the Reserve was STARTED. we have left the Reserve because the STATE has not allowed us gathering rights once it was established. In the planning meeting with the state, we were told that it would be closed for 3 years and open for 1 year. THAT NEVER HAPPENED! My family decided to get rid of the property we loved so much.

I am totally against any commercial use OF AHIIKI KINAU! I saw Ahiki know taken from over

Please submit your comments by the end of the meeting, or, if you wish you may mail your comments attention to:

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DLNR/DOFAW
54 S. High St., Rm. 101
Wailuku, HI 96793

Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact Bill at (808) 264-9325, or by email at william.d.evansons@hawaii.gov.

my family. Big beach taken and became
a STATE PARK. Molokini, taken for a
RESERVE - WAS RUINED BY COMMERCIAL USERS.
KAILUA TAKEN - SO WE NO LONGER CAN
FISH OR DRIVE THE AREA.

GET THE MONEY TO MANAGE THE AHIIKI
KINAHU RESERVE THROUGH SOME OTHER MEANS.
THE LOCAL PEOPLE LIKE MY FAMILY HAVE GIVEN
ENOUGH OF OUR INPUT TO MAKE IT OVER
THAT WE DON'T WANT COMMERCIALIZATION
OF AHIIKI KINAHU. I AS A CHILD USE TO FISH
KAILUA KALA CATCHED ANYTIME I WANTED TO.
TODAY, I HAVE TO PAY - ENOUGH ALREADY.
I BELIEVE THE LEGISLATURE SHOULD CONSIDER
A "LOTTERY" TO GENERATE REVENUE FOR OUR
RESOURCES.

COMMENT FORM

‘ĀHIHI-KĪNA‘U NAR/KEONE‘Ō‘IO PUBLIC INFORMATIONAL MEETING
November 3, 2010, Lokelani Intermediate School, Cafeteria

Resident Name:

Address:

Phone:

Email Address:

Please write any comments you wish to share on the draft management plan below.
Comments received will help to ensure that your interests and concerns are communicated to decision makers.

Page 69 (2.3.2) Objective A-1
As a Resident born on Maui, retired from the Maui Police Dept (25 yrs), I've hunted many years, locally and Mainland hunting trips. I've organized teams of other men who feel the need to control both ungulated animals. I've done culling operations over 8 yrs on Maui, Ex Kula ag park, Alliear golf course, Makana golf course, Hikalā ranch and other private farms. What I propose is a voluntary group of (6) people who under the direct control of area manager on certain days, once or two days a week, with the use of small caliber weapons - head shots only with safety in mind with direction - all evidence of carcasses removed. → More involved w/ safety, safety, safety. I feel this could be a win-win situation.

Please submit your comments by the end of the meeting, or, if you wish you may mail your comments attention to:

Bill Evanson
DLNR/DOFAW
54 S. High St., Rm. 101
Wailuku, HI 96793

Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact Bill at (808) 264-9325, or by email at william.d.evansons@hawaii.gov.

COMMENT FORM

'ĀHIHI-KĪNA'U NAR/KEONE'Ō'IO PUBLIC INFORMATIONAL MEETING
November 3, 2010, Lokelani Intermediate School, Cafeteria

Resident Name: Merrill Kaufman

Phone: _____

Address: _____

Email Address: _____

Please write any comments you wish to share on the draft management plan below.
Comments received will help to ensure that your interests and concerns are communicated to decision makers.

On Goal #3 - If a value worth preserving is the
"wilderness view plane" then the view should be available
to the people of Hawaii as well as visitors. Perhaps a plan similar
to that used by Waikamō'i Preserve w/ī Haleakalā N+I.
PK: change an entry fee (annual pass rate for residents)
and then have access trails and regularly scheduled
(weekly?) FREE guided hikes.

Regarding the oral presentation given by Emily Fielding
that an MOU was close to completion and that might
make a gate across the road possible - I can
not see how a gate would address your concern about
financial sustainability. Clearly, the revenue for the
proposed plan requires finding in excess of Conveyance
Tax revenues.

Please submit your comments by the end of the meeting, or, if you wish you may mail your
comments attention to:

Bill Evanson
DLNR/DOFAW
54 S. High St., Rm. 101
Wailuku, HI 96793

Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact Bill at (808) 264-9325, or by email
at william.d.evansons@hawaii.gov.

COMMENT FORM

‘ĀHIHI-KĪNA‘U NAR/KEONE‘Ō‘IO PUBLIC INFORMATIONAL MEETING
November 3, 2010, Lokelani Intermediate School, Cafeteria

Resident Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Email Address: _____

Please write any comments you wish to share on the draft management plan below.
Comments received will help to ensure that your interests and concerns are communicated to decision makers.

GOAL 4 STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS.

Although these are not addressed in the Plan but are left to the working plan these "partnerships" must not be "earmarked" but rather must be open to a transparent bidding process.

Too often, "partner" means another State or Federal agency that needs to justify its budget OR an NGO that is offered a partnership based on personal contacts or some other non-public process

Please submit your comments by the end of the meeting, or, if you wish you may mail your comments attention to:

Bill Evanson
DLNR/DOFAW
54 S. High St., Rm. 101
Wailuku, HI 96793

Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact Bill at (808) 264-9325, or by email at william.d.evansons@hawaii.gov.



DLNR.CO.PublicDLNR/DLNR/StateHiUS

11/22/10 11:20 AM

To William D Evanson/DLNR/StateHiUS@StateHiUS, Emma Yuen/DLNR/StateHiUS@StateHiUS

cc Michelle G Jones/DLNR/StateHiUS@StateHiUS

bcc

Subject Fw: Public Comment on Draft Plan for Ahihi-Kina'u Reserve Armstrong

This same person requested a copy of the EO to create AKNAR

----- Forwarded by DLNR.CO.PublicDLNR/DLNR/StateHiUS on 11/22/2010 11:18 AM -----



11/19/2010 03:28 PM

To dlNr@hawaii.gov

cc

Subject Public Comment on Draft Plan for Ahihi-Kina'u Reserve

Regarding the Ahihi-Kinau Reserve, I am very concerned with proposed monetary and activity restriction proposals being advocated by regulators and so called conservation groups.

Being an environmentalist that strongly believes that the public should have access to the beauties of nature, I am appalled at the approaches now being advocated by a group calling itself "Nature Conservancy" that seems to have taken over the responsibilities that should be handled by state regulators and, if necessary, the state of Hawaii Legislature and Governor.

I attended a meeting on November 3, 2010 at Lokeloni Intermediate School that appeared to be stating it was in part for public input. The state person did an introduction and then turned the meeting over to a paid volunteer of the Nature Conservancy. We were advised they were not making a recording of the meeting and there was going to be no opportunity for public input during the meeting. Only submissions in writing would be accepted. This procedure, of course, eliminated the opportunity to hear what any other attendees might have had to say. After the meeting several people were more than a little bit upset at the way the meeting was handled. Was this maybe providing the ability to fulfill any required public meeting rules without having to bother with any public comment?

My first experience in the reserve was a kayak tour from La Perouse, stopping at "the Aquarium (for snorkel), "Fishbowl" for snorkel and some lunch and then out to where the entrance to the Reserve sign is posted. The guide instructed us on proper entry into the water by putting your

paddle in the water on the other side of the kayak. He stated if it was across the front of you, the paddle could catch a wave and re-arrange your teeth. Before snorkeling at “the Aquarium” we were counseled on proper behavior including why you should not feed the fish. We were advised no human contact with fish or coral (no touch-no step). We were also told to be careful not to leave any trash behind when we left. Well, I still have my teeth, do not feed the fish anymore and I did not need the lesson on no trash, but that was appreciated also.

The next time I came back to Maui, the kayaks had been kicked out of the reserve. I was astounded. A perfect opportunity to teach, learn and enjoy the surrounding beauty – kicked out?

I guess I should have known that kicking out the kayaks was just the beginning. Soon after the few parking places along the road were blocked off and then the public denied access to both “the Aquarium” and “Fishbowl”. Now the “do gooders “ want to put a barbed wire fence around the whole lava flow and charge to park (\$5.00) or take a hike (\$35.00).

One of the meeting presenters described massive amounts of money needed to support their proposed plans. I looked at their plan as mostly unnecessary and that responsible goals could be obtained without charging the public for the experience. The presenter asked how many had been to Oahu to Hanama Bay. The presenter seemed like he thought that Disneyland type of experience would be good and profitable too. Well I’ve been there and done that – once- thank you.

I would propose a plan that would be economical, feasible and agreeable.

1. Re-open the trail to “Fishbowl”.
2. Modify the trail to “the Aquarium” to avoid passing by the new houses and to stay away from the anchialine pools.
3. Have a restricted access path to the anchialine pools only accessed by a permitted teacher with a supervised class, authorized science endeavors, etc or a paid nature tour for those who might have an interest.
4. Re-allow licensed kayak tours, but require safety, nature course for guides and some instruction before and during tours. Have staggered start times so bunches of people did not show up at stopping/snorkel places all at once.
5. Leave the “dumps” beach open for public access.
6. Assess needs for possible other walking trails to other sites or have restricted access in case of archeological or native areas.
7. Have full daytime, 7 day proactive rangers patrolling the reserve area (one per shift). Reimburse local police for emergency or unlawful activity needs.

8. Remove unsightly trailer and barbed wire fence at the “dumps” parking area.
“Do gooder” proposals would cost a ton. These modest ideas would not be super expensive and would leave visitors with a natural, fun experience and maybe even help create some more sensible environmentalists along the way.

Larry Armstrong

COMMENT FORM

‘ĀHIHI-KĪNA‘U NAR/KEONE‘Ō‘IO PUBLIC INFORMATIONAL MEETING
November 3, 2010, Lokelani Intermediate School, Cafeteria

Resident Name: MARK ROONEY
Address:

Email Address:

Please write any con
Comments received
decision makers.

BACK IN THE 1980'S THERE WEREN'T ANY "NO CAMPING"
SIGNS. WE ONCE SLEPT IN THE RESERVE ALONG THE COASTLINE.
THE PLACE HAD ICY COLD SHALLOW WATER WITH LOTS OF TROPICAL
FISH AND A PROTECTIVE SEAWALL TO KEEP THE LAGOON CALM.
THERE WERE SOME SHADE TREES AND NEARBY A SHED WITH
A FRIGIDATOR ALONG WITH A MAGNATRONAL CONCRETE SLAB.
WE COLLECTED A FULL BACKPACK OF BROKEN GLASS, RUSTY METAL,
DIAPERS, ETC... ON THE WAY OUT WE WERE STOPPED BY A
UNIFORMED OFFICER. HE SCOLDED US FOR BEING THERE. WE LISTENED
TO HIM AND HUMBLY APOLOGISED. WE SHOWED HIM THE RUBBISH
WE COLLECTED. HE LET US GO WITH A WARNING.
I SUPPORT KEEPING THE RESERVE CLOSED TO THE PUBLIC. SOMETIMES
THE BEST WAY TO PROTECT AN AREA OF RICH CULTURAL VALUE IS
TO STAY AWAY VOLUNTARILY TO PRESERVE THE AREA.

Please submit your comments by the end of the meeting, or, if you wish you may mail your
comments attention to:

Bill Evanson
DLNR/DOFAW
54 S. High St., Rm. 101
Wailuku, HI 96793

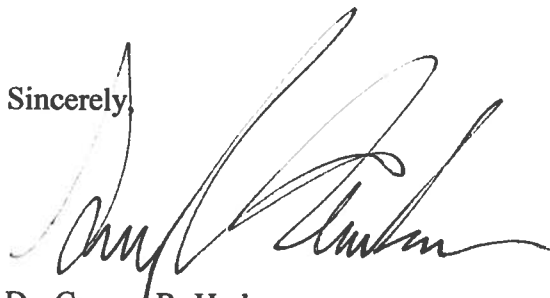
Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact Bill at (808) 264-9325, or by email
at william.d.evansons@hawaii.gov.

DLNR
comments for Ahihi Kinau
1151 Punchbowl Street, Room 325
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813
Fax: (808)587-0064
Email us at: dlnr@Hawaii.gov

November 19, 2010

Public Comments for Ahihi Kinau Natural Area Reserve Draft Management Plan is enclosed.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "George R. Harker", written in a cursive style.

Dr. George R. Harker

**Detailed Assessment of Ahihi-Kinai Natural Area Reserve Draft
Management Plan
Department of Land and Natural Resources
October 2010**

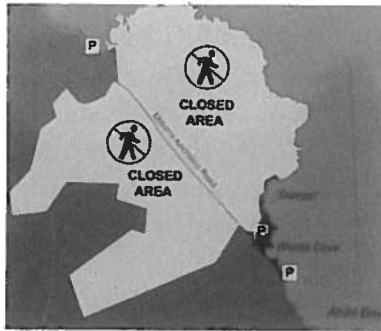
Public Comments due November 20, 2010

Prepared by Dr. George R. Harker

November 19, 2010

published on the Web at: www.drleisure.com

Dedicated to the memory of a park literally taken off the face of the map.



Thirty years of efforts to utilize, restore and protect has been completed negated by a small group of well meaning but environmentally disoriented individuals.

Seventeen days (November 3, 2010 to November 20, 2010) is a very short window in which to assess the "management plan" as presented. Of course this short window for public comments is intentional, they are really not wanted at all! Fortunately I have been following this situation for some time, even offered and applied to be on the Advisory Board representing the citizens of Hawaii. I thought with my fifty years of experience and a Ph.D. in resource management from Texas A&M University I might be able to contribute something!

An interesting aside is that my Ph.D. was conferred in 1974 a year after the Ahihi reserve was created. I must have been predestined at that time to write this document. Fortunately the technological advances in computers and document production allowed me to produce this humble effort in the short time provided for public comments. Much more needs and will be said on my web site DrLeisure.com as this situation evolves.

The key issue is the original legislation creating the reserve (1973) and how its purpose was misconstrued and changed in the rewrite and implementation of 2007.

It will take a considerable effort to return to a functioning open reserve of 2004, but that is what must be done if current and future generations are to experience and enjoy their heritage as reflected in this small portion of the planet.

At its face one would think that it would be a simple matter to open the reserve up and go back to what was in 2004. One would think that going back to hiking, bedroll camping, nature study and hunting would be a simple matter of opening up the network of trails and signs that ran through the area.

But it is not that simple much of the park infrastructure carefully thought out and implemented prior to 2004 has been destroyed. Tons of rock has been brought into the reserve and used to obliterate trail heads and sections of trail along the only road in the park. Internal components of trails within the park have been intentionally filled with rock and false trails created to divert people into sensitive areas. This was done to try and create the damage needed to suggest the hiker was the cause of damage to the resource. Trail markers have been removed and replaced by intentionally misleading ones.

Administrative rules have been placed on the books that make any visitor carrying such innocuous things as a bottle opener or a dinner knife a misdemeanor waiting to be apprehended.

Fortunately funding cuts for the Department of Land and Natural Resources should reduce enforcement of these rather bizarre rules. Closing the ninety nine percent of the park to people greatly reduces the number of rangers needed. Makena State Park with six hundred thousand visitors annually has never had a park ranger so why have so many in a mostly closed park

The collapse global economy will reduce the number of tourist substantially. Basic subsistence needs will necessitate harvesting the abundant supply of ungulates and tapping into the marine resources off shore.

In the pages to follow I have looked mostly at the history and at the conditions of the resource as they are reported in recent studies. I then look at the management objectives and how they related to the use of the area.

There is much more I could say and present on some of these issues but time constraints prevent me. Also much of the report on management technique application becomes rather irrelevant when the basic and fundamental management objective is incorrect and totally misstates the mission and intent of Ahihi Kinau Natural Area Reserve.

If you have questions or concerns or need further documentation please do not hesitate to contact me by Email
by regular mail at George R. Harker,
HI 96753.

Note: The Management Plan is presented and analyzed in the pages that follow. Material is presented in quotes following the page number of the document. My comments and analysis is presented after the notation: Note:.

Page 6

Forward

“ The planning process began with input from the Hawaii Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) Advisory Group in 2004 and was reinvigorated in 2008 through a partnership between the Natural Area Reserve System and The Nature Conservancy’s Hawaii Marine Program.”

Page 6

“The purpose of this document is to describe the management actions needed to “preserve, protect, and enhance” the biological and cultural resources.”

Note: This is the first time I have looked at resource management plan that took a park that had been operating for thirty years and destroys or ignores what has transpired. Analyses the resource base and suggest the human use was the most intrusive component in changing the character of the area after it was created. People hiking and camping in rugged terrain covered by relatively recent lava flows, blasted by military ordinance, used as a dump site, grazed by feral goats and deer and being told that the visitors to the island that wished to share this experience were damaging the resource by tramping.

Those thousand of visitors represented millions of dollars in revenue to the state of Hawaii. Hawaii is dependant on tourism for survival. To actively work to minimize or eliminate tourism visitation is to actively work to damage the livelihood of the people that live here.

Page 7

Acknowledgments

page 8

Executive Summary

page 9

- 1 Manage Human Use
- 2 Control Alien Species and Other Biological Threats
- 3 Prevent land-based impacts
- 4. Build and maintain the Reserve’s Management Capacity

page 10

- 1.0 The History and Status of the Reserve
- 1.1 Reserve Description and Setting
- 1.1.1. Geographic Setting

page 12

Geologic setting

page 14

1.1.3 Biological Setting

page 16

1.1.4 Social, Economic and Cultural Setting

Page 17

1.1.5 Physical Infrastructure Setting

page 18

Legacy of Protection

1.2.1 Management Context

page 21

1.2.2 Management History

a Management actions prior to Reserve establishment

b) Reserve established in 1973

page 22

c) 1980s: New discoveries, resource damage, management actions

d) 1990s-200's Kalua O Lapa Cave Sealed, ahupu'a tenant rights upheld, and commercial activity halted.

“Native Hawaiian burials near Kalua O Lapa, the cave was permanently sealed in 1992. The concrete seal was reinforced again in 1994..”.

“In 1997, the Lu'uwai family of Makena requested access to the Reserve for the puposes of teaching subsistence fishing to their children in their ancestral grounds. The Commission formed a working group that studied the request and consequently the family was granted a permit in 1999...”

Note: Rather incredible that no one can fish in the reserve. What more basic right than sustaining oneself through nourishment obtained from their ancestral grounds. I heard the head of the Lu'uwai family telling of exercising this permit under the eye of an armed DOCARE agent who went along to see that they didn't do anything contrary to permit.

Page 23

“As early as 2000, Hawaii Community Foundation funded Hawaii Wildlife fund to produce a naturalist training manual.. “ They found that “90 percent of area visitors discovered the Reserve through the publication **Maui Revealed** and their primary activity was snorkelingidentified commercial activities ... such as hiking and kayaking.”

Note: First let us be aware that hiking was one of the puposes and intended use of the reserve.

Beach and ocean access is viewed as a fundamental right of Hawaiians and is address in other state laws. Hiking, snorkeling and kayaking are probably the least intrusive forms of outdoor recreation one can have.

Maui Revealed gave good instruction on how to find things and also presented an aerial photo to assist in walking the trail in the lava flow. I am not aware of the reserve providing any information of equal or better quality.

Beginning about 2004 I became aware of concerted efforts by employees or associated parties working to obliterate trails, trail markings, and most any other information useful in getting around the park.

November 17, 2003 "The Department of Land and Natural Resources is pleased to present this draft Plan of Action to the NARS Commission. We are planning to hold a public informational meeting on Maui in the near future to share the draft Plan with the broader Maui community."

The document titled, **Ahihi-Kina'u Natural Area Reserve/Keoneoio Plan of Action Draft for Discussion Purposes**. The ten page document identified issues that had been dealt with and made suggestions for others:

Recent Actions: Installation of Portable Toilets. Application for Funding from the Hawaii Tourism Authority which would provide funding for two Ranger position for three years, purchase a vehicle, continue funding for toilets (would address human waste issues in area, their words) install and maintain signage, install and maintain buoys, and conduct an archaeological survey. And other baseline studies.

Recommendations for Future Use Actions

"1. Make decisions for Management action Pursuant to DLNR' Hierarch of Priorities Existing policy of DLNR when considering commercial activity proposals or management actions on state owned lands and waters is to use the following hierarchy of priorities:

"A. The Natural or Cultural Resource- the highest priority should go to the conservation of the resource. Only if an activity can be done in a way that **does not unduly damage the resource** should it be allowed.

B. The General Public - If use or activity by the public can be done without undue damage to the resource, it should be the next priority.

C. Commercial Activities - Commercial activities should be considered only if their impacts do not impinge on the resource #a above, or use by the general public, # b above."

Note: All the data regarding use and degradation of the resource included in this report supports the hierarch of priorities mandated by the DLNR. Humans hiking through lava on reinforced gravel paths and through invasive species over grazed by ungulates clearly "does not unduly damage the resource." Thus the #1 Priority becomes use by the General Public followed by Commercial activities. (In this case kayaking)

"2 Develop and Adopt a Long-Term Plan for the larger Area surrounding Ahihi Kinau/Keoneoio including Makena State Park and the State Lands in the Kanaio Beach area beyond Keoneoio

Many different plans have been proposed over the years for this area, recognizing the longstanding public desire to conserve and protect this stretch of coastline and the unique resources it contains for future generations. Parts of these plans have been implemented, while other portions have become outdated or forgotten or require additional resources. A new effort to consolidate these plans into an updated plan that addresses the current challenges facing management of the area is needed.”

Note: This ten page plan goes on to suggest various solutions to perceived management problems but fails when it presupposes a problem that an objective look at the data demonstrates does not exist: **“Total Numbers of Visitors to These Sites:** Serious questions exist regarding the sustainability of the natural habitats within the NAR given the volume of visitation currently occurring.”

Thirty years of human use by hiking and tent camping in a natural resource area which had been bombed, overrun by invasive species on both the land and water was of no particular consequence. The most noticeable human impact was the few private homes which involved resource consumption far in excess of the other human impact combined. Interestingly these are not identified or discussed within this planning document.

Page 24

e) 2004-2008 New era of increased management presence

April 1, 2004 The Maui News, “The Natural Area Reserve System (NARS) Commission will be asked Monday to approve a “conceptual plan” that will allow limited operations in the Ahihi-Kinohiwa Natural Area Reserve and at adjoining Keonemio where the unencumbered lands will be assigned to the Division of State Parks.”

Note: At this stage it appears that things are moving in a productive manner addressing perceived problems. It would be useful if this proposal and what ever came out of the meeting was presented as part of this report. A copy in the appendix would be useful.

Page 24

“In December, DLNR held a public informational meeting attended by 150 people supporting a ban on commercial activity in the NAR. Following Advisory group and Commission recommendations, commercial activity was banned in the area in April 2004 (Evanson 2005).”

Note: This entry does seem to suggest that the NAR Commission rejected the plan for allowing commercial activity in the reserve. A plan that made sense and provided a non intrusive interface between the land and water interface. Reviewing the material to evaluate this report it appears that **the southern most parking area is in fact not in the reserve but on unencumbered land which was turned over to the State Parks Division.** The commercial operation of the Kayaks from this parking area was not a NAR’s issue. It made no sense to preclude Kayaks from entering the reserve from the ocean.

September 13, 2005 The Maui News, Group demands reserve’s closure. “Last year, the group voted 8-1 to shut down the trails that lead to two popular snorkeling sites until a management

plan could be approved. That recommendation went to the Natural Area Reserve System Commission, which endorsed the idea, but the panel was told by the attorney general's office that changes of rules would need to happen first because hiking is a permitted use in the reserves."

Note: That hiking is permitted in the reserve is not a trivial statement. It was the first and foremost purpose of the reserve. Studies in the days of the **Bureau of Outdoor Recreation** showed walking for pleasure as one of the most popular forms of recreation. The prudent environmentalist of my day knew that the way to justify keeping an area in a natural condition was to have people using it! I can not think of a more non intrusive way than to have people walking through on defined trails. Reflecting while writing this I remember my involvement building trails in the Cleveland Metropolitan Parks and in Glacier Bay National Monument with the National Park System.

Further down the page: "Ramsey received an ovation from the group and members of the public following his detailed presentation that would forbid access to much of the 2,000 acres that are covered with sharp aa lava and dangerous cliffs above treacherous offshore swimming conditions. Armed with guidebooks that give incomplete or inaccurate information, tourist unprepared for the hostile environment often fall, suffer dehydration or get lost.

"It's pandemonium out there," Ramsey said.

The guidebook singled out was "**Maui Revealed.**"

Note: One of the things proposed in the 2003 plan mentioned above was closing the off road parking access adjacent to the Fishbowl. This added another half mile to a three quarter mile trip across hot lava. The guidebook couldn't keep up with the changes in park rules. Plus the various markings on the road and particular telephone poles were also altered or destroyed. On the trail itself essential markings were spray painted over and often adjacent rocks were pulled over and into the trail.

I was particularly interested in Matt Ramsey's statistics on park users getting injured. I was keeping track of the people breaking their necks and other body parts at Makena State Park's Big Beach or Oneloa Beach (not to be confused with Oneloa Beach at West Maui) Averaging about three broken necks a month and numerous other broken bones I was perplexed that the few situation Matt noted seemed insignificant. Also some of the situations sounded like they were related to preexisting conditions that the person involved bore some responsibility Given the long walk to the Fishbowl and deliberate defacing of trail markings I was surprised that more people than was reported suffered from heat exhaustion or getting lost..

March 28, 2006 The Maui News: Gate reduces the abuses at Keoneolo

"At the meeting, there was little to report on the proposed ***rules changes that would allow the trails to two coves in the Ahihi-Kinaiu Natural Area Reserve to be closed, at least temporarily until a management plan gets adopted.*** Ramsey said the process was moving along but that it could be several months before the rules could be adopted." (Emphasis added)

Note: One would get the impression that only the trails and presumably two cove's would be closed and then only temporarily. But that is clearly not what this about. The intent is to *close the park to human access for this and future generations.*

Another item of interest that gives some insight into just what the preservation of the resource means to Ramsey and his associates: "The cave in the reserve that had been furnished and occupied by a woman has been sealed up. Ramsey said all the woman's belongings were removed and *an inventory of the cave was conducted before it was closed with cement and lava stones.*"

Note: Well, I guess we could look at the inventory records at an interpretive site. The dialogue could be something like this: "Look at this 75 separate lava rocks partially exposed on the left side ranging from one inch to fifteen feet."

"That's nothing! They found a dead cave cricket over behind a rock. Doesn't say whether it was killed by the rock or not."

"Can you believe this? Mongoose poop which appeared to be fresh...."

Just what was this cave anyway? In this part of the world a cave is often the entrance to a lava tube. I have been in a few as I traveled around the islands. One over in Hana runs for miles up the mountain and down to the sea. Even if ran only half a mile this would be an extraordinary thing to see. But it has been plugged with concrete and lava rocks. Why are we introducing modern man made edifices into the natural wilderness already being heavily trampled by man? Concreting shut lava tubes is not maintaining the natural condition of the reserve. *This is probably the crux of the problem Reserve personnel have a much different view about what constitute preservation of a resource. It appears to be one hundred eighty degree's out of phase with most professionals that I know!.*

One of the prohibitions in the Chapter 13-2009 -4 (18) To enter into any cave, as defined in section 6D-1, Hawaii Revised Statutes, or any portion thereof; This was not in the Statutes at the time of this incident.

May 15, 2006 Notice of Public Hearing on Proposed Amendments to Chapter 13-209, Hawaii Administrative Rules.

13-209-3 Permitted activities. Hiking(,) and nature study [, and bedroll camping without a tent or other temporary structure] of group size of ten or less are permitted except where restricted pursuant to sections 13-209-4.5 and 13-209-4.6. Hunting is a permitted activity pursuant to hunting rules of the department."

Note: The area [between brackets] is removed. Bedroll camping of thirty years is no longer allowed. Underlined is new regulation. Only ten or less can be in the park without a special permit. Section 13-209-4.6 explains in some detail (four pages plus of the bill) what the requirements Also contained in that section is information on closure and hours. Basically they can close all or whatever for up to two years.

I understand that public school teachers, bird watcher clubs, hiking clubs, Boy and Girl Scout leaders, YMCA are queuing up and actually fighting in lines for an opportunity to get a permit and visit the reserve, ***NOT!***

Section. 13-209-4.5 list prohibited activities. Number (14) ***To have or possess the following tools, equipment, or implements: fishing gear or devices, including but not limited to any hook-and-line, rod, reel, spear, trap, net, crowbar, or other device that may be used for the taking, injuring, or killing of marine life; cutting or harvesting tools or gear, including but not limited to chainsaws axes, loppers, any mechanized or manual sawtooth tool, seed pickers, or machete, that may be used for the taking, injuring, or killing of plant life; and hunting gear or tools that may be used for the taking, injuring, or killing of wildlife, except as permitted by the hunting rules of the department. And (15) To hike, conduct nature study, or conduct any activity with a group larger than ten in size;***

page 25

“From 2009-2010 the level and intensity of management of the reserve was five full-time Rangers, providing some staff presence seven days a week, 365 days per year, 16 hours per day in two daily shifts.”

Note: The management objective of closing ninety nine percent of the reserve was achieved in August 2008. This management scheme was deemed so successful that it has been continued for another two years.

OK, let us see the result. What are the statistics for use? How many people visited the reserve daily during this time period? Where did this use occur? How many people were arrested for bringing fishing rods into the area? How many boats were ticketed or confiscated for entering the closed marine component?

How many groups over ten were encountered in the reserve? How many people died in the reserve? How many people were cited for camping in the reserve or having a blanket?

How many permits were processed? How many people took advantage of the permit process?

How many nature hikes were conducted in the reserve and who lead them?

What brochures were used to interpret the reserve? It would be good to include an example in the final management plan.

How many cats, mongooses, rats, goats and Axis deer were removed?

How many poaching incidents were observed and how many arrest occurred?

How many times were the police and/or DOCARE personnel called to the park?

Where can the daily logs and records of visitor use at the park be viewed or obtained? Summarys

of this material should be included in the management plan. Material for the last six years (beginning 2004) would be most beneficial.

What effect did the tsunami earlier this year (2010) have on the tidal pools?

How many Hawksbill turtles were found dead in the reserve and what was the cause of death? The death of Hawksbill in the Aquarium found September 4th is noted. One has to wonder if the area had been open for use that this turtle could have been unhooked and saved!

Did the elimination of “human trampling” in 99% of the reserve result in any noticeable results? Or did the browsing and trampling by ungulates continue unabated?

With the data collected by a “ *staff presence seven days a week, 365 days per year, 16 hours per day in two daily shifts*” we ought to have good information on which to assess the environmental impact of the implemented management plan associated with the park closure..

page 26

f) recent studies conducted

“The Fish and Wildlife funded study (Brook 2004) surveyed the anchialine pools... The study recommends that visitors should not be allowed within 100 m of any pool and that staff block or redirect all trails that come within this distance from anchialine pools.”

Note: Earlier the study said: The anchialine pools “are the *premier example of anchialine resources in the nation.*”, (emphasis added). This an assessment of the pool after thirty years of protection in the reserve utilizing signs and having people utilize the area for hiking, camping, nature study and hunting as provided in the enabling legislation of 1973. In this context the study recommends that trails to the pools be blocked and diverted? Blocking and diverting coupled with sign removal will encourage people to make their own way to the pools for closer examination and possible bathing.

g) Recent rules changes and buoy and road issues near resolution

“In 2005, the Advisory Group and NARS Commission requested that the DLNR temporarily close portions of the Reserve to prevent further resource damage. However, the Attorney General’s Office concluded that it was not currently within the legal power of the Commission or the Board to close off portions of an entire Reserve unless it was a matter of public safety. The requested closure would require a rule change. Acting on this guidance....”

Note: This is the beginning of the end of the reserve as a place for human activity. With the successful implementation of the rule changes anyone attempting to utilize over ninety-nine percent of the reserve would be a criminal subject to arrest, fines, and jail.

page 27

“New rules went into effect in January 2007 (HAR 13-20901) A total of 11 rules were modified or added including the ability to create and enforce visiting hours and close a Reserve or portion of a Reserve for up to two years.”

“On the authority provided in the rule changes, the Advisory Group and NARS commission recommenced the BLNR adopt a two-year action plan, August 1, 2008-July31, 2010 (NARS 2008)....

...In June 2010 the NARS Commission recommended and the Board approved a second staff request for access restrictions for the period August, 2010-July 31, 2012.”

Note: With the closure of 99% of the park, reduction of the available parking, and the list of items prohibited from being brought into the park every person is a criminal.

The current brochure produced in 2008 has removed the park from the face of the map. The park is a white area devoid of any manifestations of what makes this area of interest. It is as if the Hawaiian people, their culture and their lands never existed. Visitors are excited to see the goats and the deer.

Park rangers utilize parking spaces which are in short supply. Turnover of parking spaces is rapid. It does not take long to scan the horizon. It does not take long to see that the signs in abundance are a list of inane prohibitions that evoke memories of going through airport security on the way over. In fact the activity at the scanners showed more flesh than the bathing suite clad youngster nearby. Well so this is paradise? Maybe the goat has a more symbolic meaning than one thought: *“Did someone get your goat?”*

h) 200-2010: Management planning process

Page 30

1.3.1 Critical threats

a) Threats identified

b) Using the conservation Measure Partnership system

page 31

1.3.1 Human use

a) Levels and impact of human use

“Trampling is the most common source of damage from people. Trash and waste, vandalism, poaching and entry into restricted sensitive areas also contribute to resource degradation”

Note: With people excluded from ninety-nine percent of the reserve it will be a good opportunity to test this hypothesis. Take some pictures of places throughout the park every thirty days over

the course of the closure. Document the document the trampling and browsing. You might even photograph a goat or two. I expect it will be found that the supposed trampling from people was really trampling from ungulates all along!

“The high volume of visitors to the Reserve results in crowding, traffic and parking issues and a general lack of awareness of how to help protect and preserve natural resources and of Native Hawaiian and regional culture and history.”

page 32

b) Location and patterns of human use

page 33

c) safety and facilities

d) illegal activities

1.3.2 Alien species and other Biological Threats

a) Critical threat in Hawai'i

page 35

b) Alien species in the Reserve

“Browsing, grazing and trampling by introduced hoofed animals (deer, goats, pigs); introduced insects; predators on native plant seeds; woody plant species growing around anchialine pools and archeological sites; marine alien fish and invertebrates, and water and seabird predators.”

c) Alien species on land

“Coastal dry shrubland and forest are inundated by very high levels of browsing by deer and goats which give the alien plant species a competitive advantage. “

page 36

d) Alien species on near shore and coral reef ecosystems

page 37

1.3.3. Land-based impacts

a) effects of run-off on coral reefs

Note: The discussion focuses on various sources of pollution but fails to mention that the sources described originate in the reserve from the private inholdings

b) Low levels of run-off in the Reserve

c) Need for preventive action

“The effects of current structures in and adjacent to the Reserve are thought to be low, in terms of

pollutants, night light pollution (which can disrupt wildlife), ...”

Page 41

1.4 What we’re protecting

a) Seven priority targets for protection

“They are: 1) anchialine pool, (2) coastal marine, (3) coral reef ecosystem, (4) cultural landscape, (5) lava flow, (6) native shrubland, and (7) wilderness qualities.

page 42

1.4.1 Anchialine Pool

Current status is Good

a) Overview

“The Cape Kinau pools have been spared from these threats and are considered the most biologically intact and diverse aquatic habitats in Hawai’i and the nation (Brock 2004.)

Note: *This is the situation after the thirty years of exposure to use by people and ungulates known to utilize the reserve.* These were characterized as such a significant threat that people should be excluded from the area! ***This statement alone best characterizes the preposterousness of the reserve closure to people!***

Page 45

1.4.2 Coastal Marine

Current status is Good

a) Overview

“The primary threats to these areas are human trampling, poaching, water flow and quality changes, and climate change.”

Note: An interesting assessment given thirty years of intensive use by people concentrated into the coastal marine area by park design access. ***Another example demonstrating that people use of the reserve is not a problem!***

Page 51

1.4.4 Cultural Landscape

Current Status is good

a) overview.

“The rich cultural landscape of the Reserve includes Native Hawaiian village sites,...”

“Cultural sites within the Reserve have been damaged by tree growth, trampling by hoofed animals, as well as by human trampling, impacted by human waste and trash, and by direct

vandalism such as spray painting.”

Note: Thirty years exposure and is in good shape. It is interesting to note the “as well as human trampling, impacted by human waste and trash.” Apparently animal waste is of little significance. One wonders how the differentiation is made regards trampling. Have efforts been made to note make up of general trampling based on foot or paw prints? Is the inference that people tend not to follow and stay on the paths provided? Is there any correlation between park visitors wandering off the trails when trail marker signs have been obliterated or trails filled by rocks to conceal there location? (I have documented this in my videos and have been told by people I judge reliable that this was done by state employees in an effort to make their case for closure.)

page 54

1.4.5 Lava Flow

Current status is Good

a) Geologic setting and age of lava flows in Ahihi....

page 57

1.4.6 Native Shrubland

Current status is Poor

a) overview

“Of this vegetated area, approximately 18 percent is native and 82 percent is non-native. These areas are largely mauka of the road except at Keone’o’io and Kanahena.”

“The primary threats to native vegetation are browsing and grazing by feral ungulates, vegetative damage by alien insects, and drought conditions.”

Note: To my astonishment no mention is made of human trampling. *One has to wonder why much of the park has and continues to be closed to humans when feral ungulates are acknowledge as the primary threat to native vegetation!*

Page 61

1.4.7 Wilderness Qualities

Current Status is Good

a) Overview

The mandate for the Natural...

1) “People-centric, where human needs for renewal and recreation are paramount, and 2) Eco-centric, where wilderness is safeguarded by a relative lack of human impact.”

Note: The Ahihi reserve is not a wilderness by any stretch of the imagination. The area was extensively utilized by man in a continuum which began with the first Hawaiians arriving by sea

many years ago and continuing to present day. True the native Hawaiians have been forced out but lip service is made to allowing them access to these lands acknowledging the relevancy and continuation of human use. Area of the reserve have been used in the last one hundred years as bombing range, cattle ranch present day, camping area (designated as such in 1973 enabling legislation), hunting area (also in original legislation). Additionally a number of residences are within the reserve

Page 63

2.1 Management Framework

Note: The management framework developed in this plan is predicated on the idea that Ahihi reserve fits the conceptual framework of the Natural area reserve as published in HRS 195-1 which states: (1) the state of Hawaii possesses unique natural resources, such as geological and volcano logical features and distinctive marine and terrestrial plants and animals. Many of which occur nowhere else in the world, that are highly vulnerable to loss by the growth of pollution and technology; (2) these unique natural assets should be protected and preserved, both for the enjoyment of future generations, and to provide base lines against which changes which are being made in the environments of Hawaii can be measured.

Regrettably, as the proceeding assessment of the natural and cultural resources demonstrates flora and fauna have already been ravaged extensively by mans activity. The reserve doesn't need to be preserved, it needs restoration. Restoration efforts were begun in 1973 and severily curtailed in 2004. At about that time efforts were begun in earnest to reverse what restoration had been done and to drive the human users of the park out or into very limited areas of the park.

These are the human activities that the legislature mandated in 1973.. For about thirty-five years these activities were carried out in the reserve. In recent years tourist began to enjoy the ambiance of walking a lava field, looking into a tidal pool, and getting their car broken into. In the seventies to about 2000 plus or minus effort evolved to adjust to change. Roads were paved etc.....

Ahihi reserve has little value as an example of truly pristine natural environment. But is landscape of lava rock interspersed with invasive species sure looks more natural than many hotels. Ahihi rock formations can hold their own against the manufacture waterfalls across from the Grand Wailea. The green power box and the telephone box lend authenticity to crafted "natural" environment. The lava rock looks like a plowed field to many. The unassuming visitor usually doesn't know the difference between an indigenous plant and an invasive species. Just as well for most of the flowing plants cultivated along the highway to obscure the ocean view are imported.

2.2 Our Visions, Mission, and Management Goals

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c) Four goals

“This management plan has four management goals that address priority management needs: 1)managing human uses, 2)controlling alien species and other biological threats, 3) preventing land-based impacts, and 4) building management capacity.

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2.3.1. Goal1. Manage Human (H) Use

objective H1 - Reduce the Negative Impacts of Visitors and Increase Safety strategic Actions

Action H1(a) - Set and manage visitor limits and access points.

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Action H1 (b) Effectively enforce use regulations, by zone.

Action H1(c) Establish and maintain visitor entry and passage systems.

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Action H1(d) Gather relevant information regarding visitor levels and user behavior

Action H1 (e) Review and adjust Reserve boundaries as needed

Action H1 (f) Minimize the impacts of unexploded ordinance.

Objective H2 Protect and Stabilize Cultural Resource Sites

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Objective H3 Preserve Knowledge and Promote Awareness of the Reserve

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Objective A1 Control Ungulate Populations

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Objective A2 Control Priority Alien Plants and Animals in Terrestrial Habitats

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Objective A3 Control Priority Alien Organisms in Aquatic Habitats

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Objective A4 Actively Restore Native Plant and Wildlife Assemblages

page 74

Objective L1 Maintain High Coastal Water Quality

Objective L2 Reduce Upland Development Impacts

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Objective L3 Prevent or Minimize Manmade light Pollution Within Reserve Boundaries

2.3.4 Goal 4. Build and Maintain the Reserves’s Management (M) Capacity

Objective M1 Secure and Sustain the Level of Human and Financial Resources Needed

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Objective M2 Provide Biological Resource Status Information for Management

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Objective M 3 Provide on-site infrastructure to meet Management Needs

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Objective M 4 Initiate and Maintain Strategic Partnerships

2.3.5 Strategic Courses of Action and Use of Results Chains

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2.4 Budget and Sustainable Finance

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2.5 Measuring Success

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Appendix

Figure 28, Map of private land ownership within the Reserve (Stephanie Tom)

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Glossary

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References

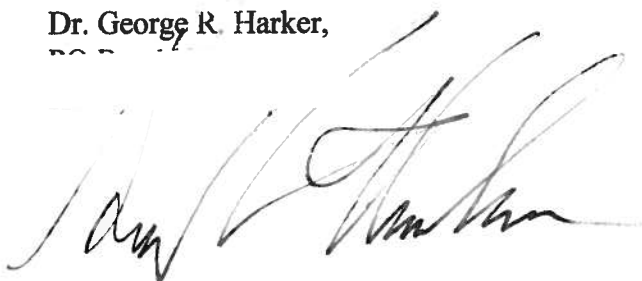
Note: Conclusion and Recommendations

The Proposed Management Plan presented clearly lays out why the conditions that existed prior to 2004 regarding use by humans should be reinstated in whole.

The DLNR policy of benign neglect as poor as it is, can not compare with the damage done in the last few years by those that manipulated and misinterpreted the data presented in this report.

If you have questions or concerns or need further documentation please do not hesitate to contact me by Em: _____ or by regular mail.

Dr. George R. Harker,



Nov 17, 2010

Division of Forestry and Wildlife
Natural Area Reserve System
1151 Punchbowl St, Room 325
Honolulu, HI 96813

Subject: Ahihi-Kinau Reserve
Comments on draft management plan

Dear Madame/Gentlemen:

Thank you for allowing me to comment on the draft management plan for Ahihi-Kinau. I was unable to attend the open house meeting held at Lokelani School, but did want to give my input.

First, congratulations for producing such a comprehensive and important document. It was well written, concise, with good illustrations. It was not an easy task wading through 112 pages, and I can appreciate the amount of work that went into its production.

I would like to make a few very general comments, followed by a few more specifics as follows:

This draft plan, long overdue, is sorely needed. I agree with your comments (as well as others) that without money, without funding, (public and/or private) it is useless and becomes worthless. To insure that this plan, this document can survive and thrive like the algae in the anchialine ponds, concerted efforts and massive amounts of energy and resource must be focused in gaining support and funding. Otherwise, this plan like dozens of other state plans, would have a wonderful life bound only in shelves gathering dust.

I personally, as well as most of my friends and neighbors, have no problems with restrictions,, prohibitions, and imposition of user fees to help in preservation efforts.

Although this draft plan by itself is a good plan, in my mind it sticks out almost like a sore thumb. Why? Because after 30 plus years, it finally gets some attention. It throbs because it hurts. Yes, it needs immediate attention and maybe emergency attention. But what about the rest of the body which still needs good care.. What about adjoining Makena State Park? How about more attention to La Perouse Bay, and Kanaio? These are also precious invaluable resources owned largely by the state. Obviously, they too were and are being neglected and ignored. The state had already adopted an Ocean Resource Management Plan and the state is the largest landowner in the area, so lets take the lead and be responsible and make southwest Maui a good example of malama aina.

As I read through the draft plan I made notes and comments as follows:

Page 9,11,27: Boundaries define space and most of us respect boundaries, so we must insure that boundary markers are plainly clear, obvious. For the ocean, a dozen or more buoys should do the trick. Also, some people don't even read signs, but it's hard to climb over barbed wire.

Page 19: There is always a fine line between "protecting natural resource first" and if can, allow "compatible" public use. If we do not allow the public access to enjoy the area - to see, to feel, to hear, to smell, and to experience - then who, or what are we protecting the restricted, pristine area for? Surely, not only for the privilege scientist? For future generations? If so, then would we be allowing "future generations" to enter into the sacred space, and experience the thrill of being in a prohibited area?

Page 49: The "Roi Round up" on Maui has been successful and well publicized, and this reserve area could easily benefit from this round-up activity. Perhaps managers could waive "no take" policy in the reserve, and round-up the invasive rascals.

Page 56: I have never been to Kalua O Lapa cave. Although it was unfortunately sealed, (cemented?) the sealing was unnatural, in a natural reserve area. If so, this seems paradoxical for a reserve, and perhaps the action should be re-visited?

Page 61, 65: Figure 20 is an excellent overview photograph of the Ahihi-Kinau reserve area. If we compared a similar photo of the adjacent La Perouse Bay area, there we would see similar features except that at La Perouse Bay, there would be the roadway along the shoreline. The wilderness qualities would be the same - pristine waters, lava landscapes, open spaces. In addition, La Perouse would have a few more remnants of old villages and more sandy enclaves. If properly planned and developed, La Perouse could and should receive and absorb much of the visitor traffic away from Ahihi-Kinau. Consolidated and/or coordination of management of some sort would help both areas, especially if the goal at Ahihi-Kinau were to reduce visitors by 50% in a couple of years.

Page 73: My understanding is that the lava flow at Ahihi-Kinau is still relatively young, relatively recent at least for Maui. So why would we want to "restore" and "replant" some of the native species? The history of the flow is still unfolding, and it's history is yet to be made. We should let nature takes its course, let time elapse, and enjoy what we see unfolding today, naturally. Except that we should and could remove harmful, non-native plants and animals which had "invaded" the natural setting.

Page 75,76: To acquire adjacent lands is a worthy, lofty, goal but also wishful thinking unless we find several pots of gold under the rainbow, or perhaps find a wealthy benefactor. But everything is possible, if one truly believes in it. I feel that the minimum (as compared to desired, and idealized) annual budget should be the governments responsibility. As a taxpayer, I have no objections to my taxes being used to help preserve this area. We already declared that it should be preserved since 1973, so let's start doing it before it's too late. Responsible persons must insure that at least \$400,000 is indeed in the upcoming budgets, and let the lobbying begin.

Page 81: Unfortunately, we need rules to govern ourselves, especially fo in isolated, sensitive and fragile areas like a reserve. I feel that Table 22, Objective H-2 Protect and Stabilize Cultural Resource Sites, ©) Establish and enforce rules to govern appropriate visitor behavior should also be a "Priority". Why? Because we behave badly. We must let the visitor (locals and tourist) know that they cannot bring a pick, or a shovel here. Nor a spear gun or a rifle! And that there are very bad consequences for violations!

I hope my comments and suggestions are helpful, and I wish the best for everyone's efforts in getting the job done. I also feel that the public comment period was too short for such a huge undertaking. The comments and suggestions expressed above reflect my personal views as a Maui resident, but I am also a Maui member of MACZAC (Marine and Coastal Zone Advocacy Council).


Henry Lau

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cc: Donna Brown, Chair, MACZAC
Jessica